Congratulations SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE students Marikris Racho and Bryce Schierenbecks (see photo below) on your Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships!

5 local transfer students win scholarships
Cooke Foundation awards are up to $30,000 annually for 3 years

By Karen Kucher 10:16 A.M. APRIL 15, 2014

Five local community college students have been awarded undergraduate transfer scholarships from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and will receive as much as $30,000 annually to continue with their higher education.
The assistance provides up to three years of funding for tuition and living expenses and is the largest private scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students in the country.

Officials said the 85 scholarship winners were selected from 3,705 applications representing 737 community colleges, including students from MiraCosta College, San Diego City College and San Diego Miramar College.

“The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has long been committed to helping outstanding community college students transfer to and succeed at the nation’s top colleges and universities,” Emily Froimson, vice president of programs at the foundation, said in a statement.

Since the program started in 2002, the foundation has supported 643 community college students.

Scholarship winners were selected based on academic ability and achievements, persistence, leadership and financial need. Recipients’ average GPA was 3.98, while their families had an average adjusted gross income of $25,000.

Local winners included Travis Williamson of MiraCosta; Marikris Guerrero Racho and Bryce Jared Schierenbeck of San Diego City College; and Trin Hoang Viet Nguyen and Mehrdad Yazdanibiouki of San Diego Miramar College.

• Williamson will graduate from MiraCosta in the spring and plans to pursue a career in the Foreign Service, a decision he reached after taking Arabic classes at Palomar College and learning about Middle East cultures. “I decided I wanted to work to build bridges between cultures,” he said in a statement.

• Racho, a biology major, plans to go to medical school and become a surgeon. She has served
as a peer educator for the City College Mental Health Services since December 2012 and has been accepted at San Diego State University.

• Schierenbeck enrolled at City College in 2010 after spending seven years in the Army and six years in the restaurant industry. He plans to attend law school and help those living in poverty.

• Nguyen is majoring in biology and chemistry and plans to be a pharmacist. She has served as treasurer of Associated Students at Miramar College and has worked as a volunteer at the Sharp-Reese Stealy clinic in Mira Mesa.

• Yazdanibiouki, who plans to become an engineer, came to Miramar College after moving to San Diego from Iran less than three years ago. He’s worked as an intern for the city of San Diego’s Transportation Department and also served as a tutor.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is a private, independent foundation established in 2000 to help promising students reach their full potential through education. Cooke was a Canadian entrepreneur who owned a media empire and sports teams, including the Los Angeles Lakers, the Los Angeles Kings and Washington Redskins. He died in 1997.

Link to original article: http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/apr/15/cooke-foundation-scholarships-community-college/