100TH-YEAR COMMENCEMENT AT SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE  
Friday, May 23 | 5:00 p.m. | Balboa Park

San Diego (May 21, 2014) — Celebrating its Centennial throughout 2014, San Diego City College will hold its 100th-year commencement exercises at the outdoor Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park on Friday, May 23 at 5:00 p.m. Alumnus Josh Higgins, Design Director for President Obama’s 2012 Re-election Campaign and current Creative Director for Facebook, will be the commencement speaker. This milestone Centennial commencement will also include former college president Dr. Jerome Hunter (1993-2000).

Of the 1,203 associate degrees and certificates awarded, the most popular disciplines include Language Arts & Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Cosmetology. More than one-third of the 2014 class will graduate with Honors (3.50-3.74 GPA), High Honors (3.75-3.99) or Highest Honors (4.0 GPA). Forty-eight students will receive two or more degrees and 41 will receive more than one certificate.

Nearly 500 graduates from ages 19 to 79 are expected to participate in the commencement activities.

The most senior graduate is Maria Carmela Llamado, age 79. Maria Carmela has been taking one class a semester at City College since 1983. Despite a stroke that paralyzed half her body and affected her speech, she continued her studies and says, “I am happy to be back in school.” Maria Carmela will receive her Associate in Arts degree in language arts and humanities, and next plans to earn a degree in business administration.

The youngest graduate is Marina Spacek, age 19. Marina will be graduating with Honors with an Associate in Arts degree in behavioral sciences. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in human development and become a social worker.

The graduates include 85 active duty or veteran military personnel. City College graduates come from across the country, including New York, Texas, and Hawaii; and from around the globe, including as far as Malaysia and Nigeria.

GRADUATION HONOREES  
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS, CHANCELLOR’S SCHOLARSHIP,  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARS

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Josh Higgins, a City College Alumnus, is the 100th-year commencement speaker. Currently a Creative Director for the Communication Design team at Facebook, last year Josh concluded his role as Design Director for President Obama’s 2012 campaign. As the Design Director, Josh built and led the design team for the historic 2012 political campaign in which the web, design, and technology played a pivotal role. With roots in both advertising and graphic design, Josh’s work has earned him national honors.
Josh Higgins dedicates a percentage of his time to social causes. Finding creative ways to support them has manifested into many successful exhibits and charitable projects, like The Hurricane for Hurricane Katrina in 2005, So-Cal for the 2007 California wildfires and the Haiti Poster Projects for the 2010 Haiti earthquakes. He also collaborates on a lecture series with photographers, designers and film makers with proceeds donated to various charitable organizations.

Josh credits City College Graphic Design Professor, Candice Lopez, as being a motivational figure in his life and says he “never had a teacher who inspired me the way Professor Lopez did” and noted her “unlimited passion for her students.”

STUDENT SPEAKER

Carolina Moreno, the City College associated student president, is the student commencement speaker. Carolina is 34-year-old San Diego native, a first generation U.S. citizen and first in her family to attend college. She is adamant that, like her, her 6-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter will have an opportunity to pursue a higher education. Carolina plans to be a nurse and will enter the Nursing program at City College next year.

CHANCELLOR’S SCHOLARSHIP

Justino Guerrero, an electrical engineering major with a 4.0 GPA, is the 2014 Chancellor’s Scholarship Recipient. Justino, a first-generation college student, plans to transfer to the University of California San Diego this fall to pursue a bachelor’s of science and a master’s degree in electrical engineering.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Andrea Milburn, associate professor of health and exercise science was selected by her students to receive the Golden Apple Award for Teacher of the Year. Andrea earned a bachelor’s of science in psychology from Regis University in Denver, CO and a master’s degree in physical education from Azusa Pacific University in San Diego. With City College since 2004, Andrea is also the Assistant Athletic Director, Co-Director for the Fitness Specialist Program, and Head Women’s Soccer Coach. She was named the Pacific Coast Conference Coach of the Year in 2005.

JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARSHIP

City College graduates Bryce Schierenbeck, 35, and Marikris Racho, 22, are two of only 85 scholars in the nation selected this year to receive the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The largest scholarship of its kind in the nation, the Jack Kent Cooke recipients can receive awards of up to $30,000 annually for up to three years to pursue four-year degrees at any accredited college or university in the United States and abroad. Awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional promise and who have financial need, the scholarships can provide funding for tuition, room, board, required fees, and books for the length of the undergraduate degree.

Bryce is a City College business major with a 4.0 GPA. A 7-year Army veteran, he helped to establish City College’s Veteran Support Center and the student organization Veterans for Peace. Bryce plans to attend the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley in fall 2014 to obtain a bachelor’s of science in business management, and then pursue a Juris Doctorate and an M.B.A. simultaneously.

Marikris is City College biology major with a 4.00 GPA. First in her family to graduate, Marikris is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and will transfer to SDSU in fall
2014. Her academic goal is to earn a master’s degree in biology with plans to become a gastrointestinal surgeon. Marikris is a peer educator for the City College Mental Health Services, a member of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program, and also in the Price Scholarship Program where she gives 300 hours of service learning in the community annually.

About San Diego City College: Founded in 1914, San Diego City College is celebrating its 100th Anniversary throughout 2014. Serving as the educational cornerstone of downtown San Diego, City College offers more than 200 degrees and certificates, and 1,500 day, evening, weekend and online courses. City College is part of the San Diego Community College District, comprised of City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, and Continuing Education. For more information, visit: www.sdcity.edu/centennial.