NEWS RELEASE

San Diego City College Students Awarded $10,000 Annual Scholarships from UC San Diego

Twenty San Diego City College graduates are being awarded $10,000 annual scholarships from the University of California, San Diego that will ensure they pay virtually no out-of-pocket costs when they transfer there this fall.

The awards are offered through the UC San Diego Chancellor’s Associates Scholars Program. To be eligible, students must be accepted to UC San Diego and they must qualify for the University of California’s Blue + Gold Opportunity Plan. Under the Blue + Gold plan, tuition and fees are covered for California residents whose families earn less than $80,000 a year.

The $10,000 Chancellor’s Associates Scholarship, coupled with the Blue + Gold Opportunity Plan, ensures the students will have their tuition, housing, meals and books covered while attending UC San Diego.

San Diego City College graduate Kendra Owens, 34, is one of the scholarship recipients, whom UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla referred to as “the best of the best.” Owens said she was surprised when she learned that she was accepted to the program, which was just expanded to include transfer students from San Diego City College, as well as Southwestern College and Imperial Valley College.

“I couldn’t believe it. It took a while to sink in,” Owens said. “I even thought for a bit that it was a mistake, that I would be getting a letter later saying, ‘Sorry, Kendra, we made an error.’”

Owens has been working in various administrative positions at accounting firms since she left home after graduating from Point Loma High School in 1997. She decided to focus on her studies three years ago, and she earned her associate degree in liberal arts and humanities in May. She plans to earn a bachelor of arts degree in economics, with a minor in accounting, at UC San Diego and then attend graduate school.
“It’s been hard getting through school and working at the same time,” Owens said. “Now I can concentrate on school and not worry about working or taking out loans. It is such a stress relief.”

UC San Diego initially launched the program in the fall of 2013 to provide eligible graduates of Gompers Preparatory Academy, Lincoln High School and The Preuss School UCSD with $10,000 a year for four years. The schools, which partner with UC San Diego, work with historically underserved communities to support students through high school as they seek an education that prepares them to be college ready.

The program has since been expanded to include low-income community college students from San Diego City College, Southwestern College and Imperial Valley College for fall 2014. UC San Diego offered scholarships to 14 Southwestern College students and six scholarships to Imperial Valley students.

“The UCSD Chancellor’s Associates Scholars Program means so much to our campus community,” said Denise Whisenhunt, Vice President of Student Services at San Diego City College. “Many of our students come from challenging economic backgrounds and circumstances, and we are confident that this opportunity will increase access to the area’s most prestigious research university, UC San Diego.”

The program is made possible by funding from Chancellor’s Associates, a UC San Diego donor network of alumni, parents and friends. Currently, $4 million of Chancellor’s Associates funds are designated annually to the program for each new class of scholars.

“At UC San Diego, we are committed to our local community and the promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion,” Khosla said. “These scholarships help strengthen our efforts to enroll highly qualified local students who will become our leaders and innovators of the future.”

As the second-largest of California’s 72 community college districts, the San Diego Community College District serves approximately 130,000 students annually through three two-year colleges and seven Continuing Education campuses. The three colleges, San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, and San Diego Miramar College, offer associate degrees and certificates in occupational programs that prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and entry-level jobs. Continuing Education’s Educational Cultural Complex (ECC) also hosts credit and noncredit classes leading to associate degrees and certificates.

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