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LAVC Student Cecily Sewell Awarded a National Community College Transfer Scholarship

She is the only Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholar in Los Angeles and will receive up to a \$55,000 scholarship

LOS ANGELES, CA – Cecily Sewell, a student at Los Angeles Valley College, is one of 60 high-achieving community college students selected nationally to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. She is the only student from a community college in the city of Los Angeles.

“We congratulate Cecily on being selected as a Cooke Scholar, said Dr. Barry Gribbons, president of LA Valley College. “This is a well-deserved recognition for her amazing engagement and scholarship.”

The highly competitive national scholarship aims for Cooke Scholars to complete their undergraduate educations with as little debt as possible. The award, which is last dollar funding after all institutional aid, can provide Cecily with as much as \$55,000 a year to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Cecily Sewell is a sophomore with a 3.9 GPA, who is majoring in Media Arts: screenwriting. She lives in Los Angeles with her 5-year-old daughter. Swell plans to transfer to Columbia University in the Fall, and plans to pursue a career as a screenwriter and director.

“I am so excited and over the moon to be a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar,” said Sewell. “I was accepted to Columbia University for Spring 2023, but decided to defer when I didn’t get financial aid. Thanks to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, I am finally able to reach my dream of transferring to Columbia!”

This year, overall undergraduate enrollment has remained comparable to last year’s numbers. However, for the first time in several years since the COVID-19 pandemic began, community college enrollment has increased by 2% nationwide.

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“There are so many bright and persistent community college students in our nation who we know will thrive at four-year institutions if they can find a way to transfer without being weighed down by a heavy financial burden,” said Seppy Basili, executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. “We are excited to welcome yet another cohort of Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars to our community after learning about them through their applications and seeing their unbound potential.”

Along with financial support, new Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for their careers. Scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of more than 3,000 Cooke Scholars and Alumni.

This year, more than 1,700 students from 448 community colleges applied to receive the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The Foundation evaluated each submission based on students' academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, and leadership.

A list of the 2023 Cooke Transfer Scholars, including their community colleges, can be found [here](#).

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About Los Angeles Valley College

Los Angeles Valley College, is a public two-year community college located in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. Established in 1949, it is the third largest campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and serves more than 24,000 students. LAVC offers 96 associate degree programs, 73 credit certificates and 10 skills certificates in high-demand career fields, and 19 non-credit certificates. Follow us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/lavalleycollege>, and @lavalleycollege on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/lavalleycollege>) and Instagram (<https://instagram.com/lavalleycollege>). For more information, visit www.lavc.edu.

About the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

The Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded \$250 million in scholarships to more than 3,200 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive counseling and other support services. The Foundation has also provided \$125 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. www.jkcf.org.