



COLLEGE RELATIONS AND MARKETING

4200 CONGRESS AVENUE, LAKE WORTH, FL 33461-4796

TEL: 561-868-3122

crmarket@pbcc.edu

FAX: 561-868-3123

www.pbcc.edu/crm.xml



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PBCC graduate receives Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship

Candace Payne is one of 46 students around the country chosen for the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

(Boca Raton, Fla. – May 13, 2008) Candace Payne, a Palm Beach Community College Honors student who graduated May 8, has been awarded a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship of up to \$30,000 per year to complete her bachelor's degree at a university.

She is one of 46 students from around the country and one of five in Florida chosen from 600 applicants from two-year colleges. It is one of the largest and most competitive undergraduate transfer scholarships in the country.

"I'm very excited about it," said Payne, who holds a 4.0 grade point average and is featured in PBCC's new advertising campaign. "I still can't believe it."



The 28-year-old woman began attending PBCC's Boca Raton campus off and on in 2000 while working as a nanny and later as a clerical worker. She decided last fall to enroll in school full-time to complete her associate in arts degree and put more focus on pursuing her teenage dream of becoming a physician, a dream she initially thought was out of reach.

"I didn't have the confidence. I never believed I could do it. That was back then when I was younger. All of that changed. Now, I definitely feel as if I can do it," she said.

Payne served as vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa international honor society at the Boca Raton campus before becoming president this spring. She also was chosen this year for the Phi Theta Kappa All Florida Academic Team. She plans to get her bachelor's degree in chemistry and then go to medical school. She has not yet made a final decision on which university she will attend.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is a private, independent foundation established in

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2000 by the estate of Jack Kent Cooke to help young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education. It focuses in particular on students with financial need. The Foundation's programs include scholarships to undergraduate, graduate, and high school students, and grants to organizations that serve high-achieving students with financial need.

Payne is the second PBCC student to receive the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship since the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation began offering them. The first was Karen Pain who is now a prep math professor at PBCC.

Palm Beach Community College, Florida's first public community college, is celebrating its 75th anniversary throughout 2008. The largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, PBCC serves more than 45,000 students annually through its associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. The College offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

Editor's note: For a high resolution photo of Candace Payne, visit www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/CandacePayne.jpg.

Media contact:

Tabatha B. McDonald
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3127