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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Palm Beach State student earns Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

*She will receive up to \$30,000 a year to complete her bachelor's degree*

(Lake Worth, Fla. —April 22, 2013) College life is looking good for Aida Rodriguez.

Not only is she receiving her Associate in Arts degree from Palm Beach State College with honors May 9, but she also has been named a 2013 recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, allowing her to complete her bachelor's degree at a university. The scholarship will pay up to \$30,000 per year for two to three years to cover tuition, living expenses, books and required fees. She is among 73 students nationwide to receive the scholarship.



“I was overfilled with joy to know that I had been one of 73 awarded the scholarship,” Rodriguez said. “Without it I would struggle to finish my undergraduate career. It’s not just about the honor and prestige; it’s really about how it has changed my life. It has made things possible for me that would not be possible without it.”

The competitive scholarship from the Virginia-based Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is awarded annually to top community college students with financial need. Students do not apply directly to the foundation. Instead community colleges can nominate up to four students. Rodriguez is the fifth Palm Beach State student ever to receive the scholarship.

A native of Mexico, Rodriguez of Lake Worth came to the United States with her parents when she was six years old. In 2010, she graduated from South Tech Academy charter school where she studied cosmetology. While she liked styling hair, she soon realized that would not be her ultimate career.

“I have always been an honors student always getting high grades. I knew I had to go to college,” said Rodriguez whose goal is to eventually earn a doctorate in social psychology and work with disadvantaged youth.

At Palm Beach State, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and is actively involved in student clubs ASPIRA and Students Working for Equal Rights (SWER). This year she serves as core leader of SWER and editor of “Sabiduría,” the peer review journal for the College’s Dr. Floyd F. Koch Honors College. She also is a peer mentor for the Dr. Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center on the Lake Worth campus.

*Serving 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor’s degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.*

**Editor’s note:** Contact College Relations and Marketing for a high resolution photo of Aida Rodriguez.

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