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(For immediate release)

Largest Scholarship for Community College Students and Recent Alumni Offered

Nominees may include exceptional Odessa College students with financial need

ODESSA (Oct. 29 , 2010) – The Jack Kent Cook Foundation has opened the nominations process for the largest scholarships available to students and recent alumni from community colleges including Odessa College. Through the initiative, called the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, the private foundation will award up to \$30,000 annually per recipient to help students and recent alumni from community colleges and two-year institutions pursue four-year degrees at any accredited college or university in the United States. Last year, the Foundation received about 500 nominations for these awards.

While 45 percent of all college students in the U.S. attend community colleges, few private funds are available to help top community college students transfer to four-year institutions, in spite of their high levels of ability and need. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarships can provide funding for tuition, room and board, required fees, and books for the length of the undergraduate degree, generally two years. Each award can total up to \$30,000 annually, though the amounts will vary based on such factors as the cost of the institution each recipient attends.

The Foundation plans to award about 60 scholarships through this program in spring 2011, a 50 percent increase over 2010. It will renew awards each year based upon student performance. Current Odessa College students are eligible, as are alumni who earned a degree from Odessa College since spring 2006 and have not since transferred to a four-year college. The application deadline for Odessa College is Wednesday, Dec. 15. The Odessa College scholarship committee will be able to submit a total of three nominees from the pool of OC applicants. The online application is available at www.jkcf.org. For more information contact OC biology chair and Phi Theta Kappa advisor Donna Griffin at 335-6533.

About the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to helping young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education. The Foundation provides challenging opportunities to high achievers from lower-income families through its Young Scholars Program, generous scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study, and grants to nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.