

News Release
June 22, 2015

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Luria Foundation Establishes \$10,000 Outstanding Math Student of the Year Award for Santa Barbara City College Students

With continued growth expected in occupations in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, access to education in these subject areas can be critical to a student's future professional success. No two people understand this better than Kandy Luria-Budgor and Lee Luria, vice president and president respectively of the Luria Foundation. This year, Kandy and Lee decided to establish an annual \$10,000 Outstanding Math Student of the Year Award for Santa Barbara City College students exhibiting outstanding achievement in and passion for the study of mathematics.

"I learned the value of an education early on from my parents, and the importance of making that education available to everyone," said Kandy, who is also a longtime board member of the Santa Barbara City College Foundation. "Along with my mother Lee Luria, we felt that the establishment of a math award would be giving opportunity where opportunity did not exist before."

In this inaugural year, the award went to Avraham Loschak (Avi), a gifted young man whose drive and passion for math inspired the award. Avi took his first math class with SBCC Professor Jaime Campbell, and from that first day, knew he had found his passion in life. "STEM education is so important, and Santa Barbara City College does a great job of preparing our students to be competitive in this environment," said Kandy. "It is our hope that with the 'M' covered, others will now step up to provide awards for the 'S,' 'T,' and 'E' so that funds can be provided to students excelling in all STEM areas."

In addition to excelling at mathematics, students receiving the award must transfer to a four-year university to complete their bachelor's degree. The prize money provides funds to cover tuition, books, supplies, or living expenses at the university of their choice. "With this award, the Luria Foundation is making sure City College students like Avi are on an even playing field as they transfer to four-year universities," said Kandy. "My mother and I both hope this award will be the launching pad from which students can continue to pursue their talents in mathematics as they become the future STEM leaders of this country."

Scholarships and awards are among the many tools offered to encourage student success at Santa Barbara City College. They relieve financial burden, offer support, and give validation to outstanding achievements. If you would like information on how to establish a scholarship fund to benefit Santa Barbara City College students, please contact Santa Barbara City College

Foundation Scholarship Director Lucille Boss Ramirez by calling (805) 730-4406 or emailing ramirez@sbccfoundation.org.

About the SBCC Foundation

The SBCC Foundation was established in 1976 to support Santa Barbara City College through sustained philanthropy. Every year, the foundation raises funds from thousands of individuals and foundations in order to provide much needed support to the college above and beyond the available public resources. This year alone, the foundation has provided nearly \$4 million in support to SBCC for academic programs, student support services, scholarships, and capital improvements.

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