



CenturyCollege

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[Nancy Livingston](#)

Public Relations

651-779-3222

Fax 651-779-3470

[Century College](#)

3300 Century Avenue North

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Century College Student Receives Scholarship Worth \$90,000

Century College student Erin McDonald of Osceola, Wis., is this year's winner of the coveted Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship for two-year college students who transfer to a four-year college. The scholarship is worth up to \$30,000 a year for three years.

McDonald, 27, is one of 46 students from across the country to receive the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. She is the only student from a Minnesota two-year college to receive this year's award. The scholarship is awarded based on financial need, academic performance, letters of recommendation, work history, volunteer history and personal essays.

McDonald has been accepted and is attending the College of St. Catherine in the fall, majoring in history.

"It is amazing that I won," said McDonald, a single mom with a seven-year-old son who struggles with autism. "I guess people read my essays and decided I was the one who they wanted to help. That is really touching."

A self-described "Air Force brat" who lived in England until she was 11 years old, McDonald attended eight schools between kindergarten and 12th grade, finally graduating from the St. Paul Creative Arts

High School in 1999. McDonald started at Century in spring 2006 taking mostly afternoon and evening classes her first semester, and going full time after that. She describes the six years between graduating from high school and starting at Century as “a rough patch” that included taking care of her son, Kylethan, plus working in a factory, a retail store and a pizza restaurant.

“I love school and I love learning new things,” said McDonald. “That’s why I want to be a history professor. To get paid to read and write and talk about fascinating things – how great is that?”

McDonald praised the TRIO student support staff at Century, particularly Wade Warner, Jeanne Kapeller and Judy Niemczyk. She also said her Century professors went out of their way to help her and challenge her – especially Ida Baltikauskas of philosophy, Paul Roach of anthropology, Bob Hathaway of English, Julie Daniels of English and Beth Lanning of psychology. “I was a good student in high school, but the professors at Century really pushed me to the next level,” she said. “They really made me work, and I appreciated it. The professors here really care about you – not just as a student, but as a person.”



Photo: Erin McDonald and Century President Larry Litecky