

Jaclyn D'Arcy receives \$20,000 scholarship as the 2007 National Toyota Community Scholar

After Jaclyn D'Arcy, a Merit Academy senior, made the first cut (out of 8,500 students), Toyota invited 100 other winning students across the nation on an all-expenses paid trip to Louisville, Kentucky, to celebrate. Each of these 100 students received \$10,000, and of these 100 students, Toyota selected twelve students to receive an additional \$10,000, which they announced at the Awards Ceremony at the Kentucky Derby Museum. Toyota recognized Jaclyn for her outstanding scholastic achievement, leadership, and community service.

Since Jaclyn was in 4th grade, she has been fascinated with hydrogen fuel cells. She started a nonprofit organization, Kids 4 Hydrogen (www.kids4hydrogen.com), to educate America's youth about alternative energy sources. D'Arcy has presented fuel cells, hydrogen fuel cell cars, and demonstrations at hundreds of conferences, classrooms, and conventions across the United States. In 2004, the American Lung Association invited Jaclyn to join a panel of scientists to speak at the Walt Disney Concert Hall at a breakfast honoring Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's efforts to expand the California hydrogen highway. That's where she first met Terry Tamminen, then Chief of Staff. Impressed by Jaclyn's presentation, he invited her to the grand opening of the first Retail Hydrogen fueling station at LAX.

To earn the recognition as one of the twelve national scholarship honorees required much more than D'Arcy's Kids 4 Hydrogen. Four years ago, she cut 19" of her own hair to donate to Wigs for Kids, an organization that gives real-hair wigs to children with cancer. Thrilled with the idea that one child would be able to wear a long-hair wig, she launched a county-wide program to collect hair from hair salons so that many children can wear these wigs. D'Arcy says that it was really easy to set up because she simply made fliers, asked Uline to donate bags, and mailed the bags to every hair salon in Santa Cruz County. Since then, she has received thousands of inches of hair each year.

Jaclyn also wrote and published three books. At age seven, she wrote *The Genealogy of Jaclyn Tatsui D'Arcy*, which was published by the UCSC Special Collections Library. Jaclyn also wrote *Coollest Braid Designs* and *Clueless Teens Guide to Dating*. Jim Lentz, the executive Vice President of Toyota, plans to buy the dating book for his daughter! Jaclyn's books are available at www.meritworld.com.

Toyota gave the 100 students the red-carpet treatment. They stayed at the Seelbach Hilton, a 4-star hotel, and were treated to a dinner cruise on the Belle of Louisville. The students danced and made friends with one another. D'Arcy was impressed by Toyota's factory where she saw how cars are assembled and got to drive the latest models of hybrids and the new line of 2008 cars. Toyota held the awards banquet at the Kentucky Derby Museum where the students saw a horse race at Churchill Downs, toured the museum, and enjoyed a filet mignon dinner. Rory Kennedy was the keynote speaker and she shared with the students some clips from her recent films on women living with AIDS.



*Jim Lentz (Toyota), Jaclyn D'Arcy, Rory Kennedy
(keynote speaker)*

Jaclyn says that she met dozens of students and created a great network of friends. They all shared this huge honor and quickly became friends. After the first night, the students stayed up all night talking and playing games in the hospitality suite. Toyota orchestrated this first-class event to honor the students and give them an opportunity to network. With a group of 30 students in her room, they exchanged email addresses and Facebook accounts so they could stay in touch in the future. When Jaclyn got back to her home in Soquel, CA, she found dozens of emails from the Toyota scholarship winners.



An accomplished dancer, Jaclyn flew from Louisville directly to Fresno, CA, to compete at KAR, a dance competition. Jaclyn and Kory Amaral's duet "I'll Be" won first place in their category and the entire competition receiving a check for \$125. Her trio took first place in their category and 5th overall, and her 5 group numbers also placed first in their categories and checks totaling \$175. It was a sweet week for Jaclyn – she won the Toyota scholarship and the dance competition.

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Photos available upon request

** Bartell Cope, a Stevenson senior and Aptos resident, also made the first cut and received \$10,000.