This spring, two Greenfield Community College students are getting more than recognition from the College for their successful studies, they are being presented with state and national awards. Here’s a brief snapshot of that recognition.

Who? Which Honors?
Gabriela Maurier, 19, of Turners Falls has been awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship for 2012, one of 16 community college graduates nationwide nominated this scholarship. The scholarship, up to $50,000 per year, is intended to cover a significant share of the student’s educational expenses—including tuition, living expenses, books and required fees— the first two to three years necessary to achieve a bachelor’s degree.

Evelyn Stankowski, 19, of Sunderland is one of the 29 Massachusetts public college and university graduates honored by the Department of Higher Education at a State House ceremony on May 10. The 29 Who Shine, one from each of the 29 Massachusetts public campuses, were chosen for this recognition based on their academic achievements and record of student leadership and community service.

Why?
Gabriela is an academically strong self-starter who graduates this spring with an Associate in Arts degree in Environmental Studies. Since she took her first chemistry class at GCC, Gabriela has inspired her to work hard and outreach to people one-on-one as well as in workshops, and education. She plans to use skills she’s learned in sustainable communication, conflict resolution, and sustainability/ permaculture to build a healthy community, thriving in a local food and economic system.

Evelyn has the dream of creating an inner-city restaurant/community center – a place for food, music, education, and psychology. Gabriela plans to use her Architectural Administration Transfer degree.

What’s Next?
Receiving this scholarship means Gabriela can consider transferring to the school of her choice (she couldn’t afford on her own) and obtain her bachelor’s degree. She hopes to attend Narcia University in Boulder, Colorado, to study toward a Bachelors degree in peace studies, environmental studies, and psychology. Gabriela plans to use her psychology degree to work with traumatized and decades of systematic trauma.

Gabriela said, “As I work with people, past and present, I know I have to continue to research and learn new skills to build the systems and tools that are broken.”

Evelyn’s plans for the future are carefully thought out and ambitious. Evelyn’s goal is to attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance and Economics. Since she took her first course in economics at GCC, Evelyn has been fascinated by the broad policy-making and research work of the Federal Reserve Bank. After completing her studies at UMass, Evelyn hopes to move to Boston or New York City and work at the Federal Reserve.

Reflecting on these honors: Gabriela said, “I am still in shock, still thinking that this is true. I am incredibly honored to have this opportunity to pursue my dream. Researching and applying for scholarships added to the stress of a busy school and work schedule, but I learned that there are resources available if you look for them. When I was writing the application essays, I focused on my intention and continually told myself, ‘I know I am the best candidate for this award.’ I encourage everyone to believe in themselves and to seek the resources to turn their dreams into reality.”

Evelyn said, “I am incredibly honored to have my hard work acknowledged, and to have the opportunity to meet the Governor. I still can’t believe that this has happened. I am so grateful to have had the chance to attend this great college. I am incredibly grateful to all of those lessons.”

GCC President Bob Pura said, “We are so very proud of each of these recipients. They are two wonderful examples of the intelligence, heart and courage found in the student body of GCC. Our hearts are filled and lifted.”

For information about the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarships, visit www.jkcf.org. For information about “29 Who Shine,” visit www.29whoshine.org.

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SUMMER CLASSES
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Summer Session II begins July 12-August 29
www.gcc.edu

G GCC Celebrates the New Traprock Peace Education Center
GCC’s Peace, Justice and Environmental Studies Program has accepted the donation of books and visual media materials from Traprock Peace Center to establish the new area. In addition, the Traprock Board of Directors awarded $5,000 to the GCC Foundation to establish the Traprock Peace Education Center Fund for students.