

JACK KENT COOKE

FOUNDATION

Dear Scholars,

I've now had the privilege to serve as executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for 18 months. I've had the pleasure of spending time with a number of you at Foundation events and during my travels, and one of the indelible takeaways for me has been the vibrancy and diversity of the scholars that make up our family. It is one of our greatest strengths.

I've been inspired watching the way Cooke Scholars support and encourage each other in their personal, educational, and professional endeavors. It is wonderful to see the ways you all give back to the current cohorts of scholars. Whether through mentoring them or taking part in outreach activities to help find the next generation of scholars, it's awesome to see the energy with which you all choose to pay it forward.

In the past year, a number of scholars have approached us about another way that they'd like to give back; a desire to contribute financially to our work. We are currently exploring what this would entail, and I hope to have more details for you soon about how this will be another avenue if you so choose in which you will be able to help those scholars who are now in a place you once were.

This August, we will kick off a celebration of our 20th year. As we head toward this milestone, we're taking the time to both look back and reflect on the distance traveled and impact made, but also to cast an eye to what lies ahead and how we can best activate and support the seemingly limitless potential within each of you.

We are heartened when we see the significant contributions to the world that you all are making, and we are excited to celebrate you and your achievements in the coming year. Collectively the power of each scholar's work creates a ripple effect that amplifies the impact of the scholarships in a way that would make Mr. Cooke proud. One of the visions he had was what the long-term effect of his gift would be – in his mind's eye it was a thriving community of people who collaborate with each other across industries and bring your unique talents and perspectives to the wider world.

Sincerely,



Seppy Basili
Executive Director