Hornet senior is honored with CSU scholarship

Sacramento State senior Patrick Landrum’s goal is to graduate next spring with bachelor’s degrees with honors in two majors: mathematics (emphasis on applied math and statistics) and economics. His quest is all the more impressive given that he was diagnosed with the learning disability Asperger’s syndrome at age 7 and struggled for years to achieve basic communication and social skills.

Thus it’s fitting that Landrum be among the 23 students honored by the California State University for triumphing over personal hardships to become the CSU’s most distinguished scholars. On Tuesday, Sept. 9, during the CSU Trustees meeting, he will receive $6,000 as a William Randolph Hearst Scholar – money that will help him cover educational expenses as he completes his degrees.

“Patrick is focused and determined to succeed in his educational pursuits,” says Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez. “I am confident that he will represent the CSU with utmost distinction.”

“The compelling life stories of these extraordinary student scholars are a testament to the transformative power of public higher education,” says CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White. “Through the generous support of our donors, many of whom are first-time contributors to the Trustees’ award program, we are able to help these scholars create a bright and successful future.”

Landrum’s drive and determination prompted him to become an academic powerhouse. He graduated from Golden Valley High School in Merced as the class salutatorian in 2009, maintaining a 4.0-plus grade-point average all four years. After earning an associate degree in mathematics from Merced College, he enrolled at Sac State, where he has made the Dean’s List with a double major in mathematics and economics.

He also volunteers as a math tutor and provides a helping hand to regional libraries, parks, blood drives and rescue missions. As a special-needs child, he learned the value of helping others. “I see volunteering in the community as a chance of a lifetime to make a difference,” he says. It’s also an opportunity, he says, to serve as a role model to those with learning disabilities who need to know “that working hard pays off big time.”

Having demonstrated the will to overcome obstacles and succeed, Patrick Landrum is no less determined to make the most of his considerable potential. He plans to pursue a career as an actuary who analyzes the financial impacts of risk and uncertainty. In light of this remarkable young man’s track record, he should have little trouble making the grade.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller