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MARY PICKFORD FOUNDATION GIVES \$200,000 TO SMC

The Santa Monica College Foundation announced it has received a \$200,000 gift from the Mary Pickford Foundation to establish an endowment fund for scholarships for students at the college's acclaimed Academy of Entertainment and Technology.

The Mary Pickford Foundation is a private nonprofit corporation in Beverly Hills. It was established by the film industry pioneer for the support of education, medical research, community service, the arts, and charitable causes she championed throughout her life.

The foundation has also created endowed scholarship funds at film schools to encourage future filmmakers and to support students interested in the industry as well as archive research, cataloguing, film restoration, documentaries and books.

"We are happy to have established a fund for scholarships at SMC and are excited about the Academy," said Thomas M. Andersen, President of the Mary Pickford Foundation Board of Directors. "We expect much from the graduates."

The Academy of Entertainment and Technology is a unique program, started in the fall of 1997, that trains students in computer animation and visual effects, new media, themed entertainment, and entertainment industry business. Its advisory board is made up of representatives from major studios and related entertainment companies.

"We are profoundly grateful to the Mary Pickford Foundation for its generosity," said SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson. "The scholarships will enable many of our students to make their dreams come true and contribute to the economic vitality of Southern California."

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