

MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE

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Macklin Scholar Takes Full Advantage of Her Opportunity

Macklin Business Institute first-year student Bertha Flores is already a "who's who" among college students - literally. The 2007 Wheaton High School grad was recently named to a list of Who's Who Among Junior College Students and is one of two Montgomery College finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The Foundation provides up to \$30,000 per year to each of approximately 50 community college students who transfer to a four-year college or university

Flores, who gets her motivation from

her family and a committed group of mentors, has a 3.66 GPA in her third year at Montgomery College. But Flores has learned that being active in the community is as important as hitting the books.

Aside from the challenging coursework a Macklin Scholar takes on, Flores is active in campus clubs at MC. She is the treasurer of the Latino Student Union and the founder and president of the Social Services Club. In addition, she is the co-sponsor of the Latino Student Union at Wheaton High School where she meets with students weekly to coordinate and facilitate community projects.

"It wasn't until I was admitted to the MBI program last fall that I was able to go to college full-time," Flores said. "It's a rigorous program, but with a team as committed and motivated as the one we have, every Scholar can reach their highest level of potential. The MBI has been life-changing and a perfect fit for me because it's also about working in the community and developing ways in which we can become proactive leaders."

Flores hopes to transfer to either Georgetown University or Dickinson College to obtain a degree in management with a concentration in nonprofit management. She says her experiences with working in the community have shaped her life and career goals.

"I would like to run my own nonprofit organization to inspire and empower

young Latino students to pursue higher education," Flores said. "There is a big population of underserved students who lack the resources [to go

to college]. Fortunately for me, I had the right people to guide me and teach me the importance of receiving an education."

Student-Run MBI Café Raises Over \$1,000 for Red Cross

Community service projects play a huge part in every MBI student's experience in the Macklin Program. The students not only use the processes and results from the projects at national business competitions, but they also take pride in doing positive things in the community. When the catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti, the College, as well as the MBI students sprung into action.

On January 26, the MBI Café raised \$1,028 for the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area's Haiti relief efforts by providing "free" coffee and drinks in return for donations from customers. A minimum of a \$1 donation provided Café customers with a tall regular coffee, and a \$2 donation afforded a tall coffee or specialty drink.

"Thanks to the fundraising efforts like the Macklin students, people in Haiti will receive more than immediate relief - they will receive resources, support and training from the Red Cross that will help them recover and rebuild for years to come," said Linda Mathes, chief



Joel Castillo and his MBI classmates raised over \$1,000 for the American Red Cross' Haiti relief efforts.

executive officer of the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area.

One of the primary organizers of the MBI Café event was first-year MBI student and Dominican Republic native Joel Castillo. The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Castillo says he got involved with College's fundraising efforts because "when the earthquake hit, it felt close to home."



MBI student Bertha Flores is a finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.