



For Immediate Release

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The San Diego Foundation Celebrates The Blasker Grants Program's 10th Anniversary

During its 10-year history, the fund has granted more than \$6.5 million in support of more than 100 early career scientists

San Diego, CA (Nov. 11, 2011) -- The San Diego Foundation (www.sdfoundation.org) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Blasker Grants Program at a luncheon held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at The Foundation's Center for Civic Engagement. The Blasker-Rose-Miah Fund was established at The San Diego Foundation to nurture and develop unique and innovative discoveries and experiences which may be of benefit to all mankind, and to support and encourage individuals with high potential in the scientific, engineering, and medical fields to reach their full potential in their chosen areas of study, work, and analysis.

The Blasker Award was launched through an \$8.9 million endowment to The San Diego Foundation in 2001. The endowment was established by Samuel L. Blasker, a former aeronautical engineer for Convair in San Diego, to honor his mother, Rose Miah, and to foster scientific innovation. To date, the fund has granted more than \$4.5 million in support of 80 early career scientists in the Science & Technology Program, and more than \$1.95 million to support 29 early career scientists in their research that advances solutions to our region's most pressing environmental concerns, including California's first regional assessment of climate impacts.

"The Blasker program is critical in advancing science and fostering the careers of young innovative scientists which contribute to the region's economy. This ultimately improves the quality of life for people in the San Diego region. This year, more than \$500,000 was granted to support nine projects from five research

institutions. I am thrilled to be a part of the working group selecting these talented scientists and their research,” said Ned A. Smith, PhD, Chair of The San Diego Foundation’s Science & Technology Working Group.

“The generosity and vision of Samuel Blasker,” said Bob Kelly, President and CEO of The San Diego Foundation, “has built an enduring legacy that has inspired creativity in the scientific, engineering and medical communities. The grants have helped produce nearly 200 scientific publications and have impacted approximately 600 student researchers throughout San Diego. This is the kind of spirit and innovation that Sam envisioned when he endowed the fund.”

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About The San Diego Foundation

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation’s purpose is to promote and increase effective and responsible charitable giving. The Foundation manages more than \$570 million in assets, almost half of which reside in permanent endowment funds that extend the impact of today’s gifts to future generations. Since its inception, The Foundation has granted more than \$760 million to the San Diego region’s nonprofit community. For additional information, please visit the San Diego Foundation at www.sdfoundation.org.