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John Dewey College Student Named Third Place Winner in National Career Education Poster Design Competition

(Hato Rey, Puerto Rico / Washington, DC) February 1, 2012 – After receiving more than 80 entries from students across the globe, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) today announced the winners of its student poster competition. Raul Pastor Lopez, a student at John Dewey College in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, was awarded third place for his design.

The competition was launched as part of ACICS' Centennial celebration. Since 1912, ACICS has been a leader in advancing excellence and access to post-secondary education that prepares students with the professional, technical, and occupational skills needed to become competitive in the workforce. Many of the submissions included designs representing the role of career education in preparing students to succeed in industries such as business administration, allied health, information technology, criminal justice, and culinary arts.

"ACICS received submissions from talented students across the globe, utilizing different artistic styles and techniques that are taught in many of our school's art and design programs," said Dr. Al Gray, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of ACICS. "Our Centennial marks an important milestone in accreditation history, and we are pleased to showcase the work of our talented design students in this competition."

Lopez is currently working toward an Associate's degree in Graphic Arts, and was encouraged by his teacher to turn the competition into a research and design project about education. Inspired by Steve Jobs and the iPad, his design, *Workforce iPad: ACICS Edition*, incorporates icons on the tablet that represent career programs at ACICS-accredited institutions. He created the design using Adobe Illustrator, a program he learned in his classes at John Dewey College.

Raised in an area faced with many economic hardships, significant high school drop-out rates, violence, and even homicide, Lopez's school, teachers, and family have been supportive and have helped motivate him to stay in school and finish his degree.

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“From the time I was a child, I had an interest in design and wanted to get an advanced degree. Fortunately, my aunt that raised me is a designer and I can look to her for guidance, despite losing close friends of mine to area violence.”

After winning third place in the competition, he now wants to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in web design and eventually work for a public relations firm in Puerto Rico.

Upon hearing the news of Lopez’s placement in the contest, School Chancellor William Ubinas “jumped up and down. The good news was passed on to administrators, teachers and students. The reaction was very positive, just what we needed in Puerto Rico. This was such an added thing for us.”

Visit the [Centennial](#) section of ACICS.org to view the top three winning posters and learn more about the inspiration for Raul Lopez’s design.

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About the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

Founded in 1912, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) is one of the most respected and longest established national accreditors of academic institutions in the United States. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). ACICS accredits more than 800 private post-secondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, as well as institution offering associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational degrees. For more information, please visit www.acics.org.

About the ACICS Centennial

ACICS will recognize its 100 years of service throughout 2012 with a number of events and initiatives designed to engage schools, faculty, students, and employers in the community. In May, ACICS will launch a week-long [community service initiative](#) to provide an opportunity for schools and students to give back to the communities in which they serve. In November, the ACICS Centennial Gala in Las Vegas will highlight the agency’s rich history of serving a leading role in helping students gain access to quality career education. Click [here](#) for more information on the ACICS Centennial and related activities.