



Message from Dr. Don Tomas, SCC president

What started as a dream in 2013 is about to become a reality.

The Student Success Campaign is on a march to a \$1 million endowed fund to primarily support SCC students.

To date, total funds raised and committed through the end of this fiscal year exceed \$875,000. We are on the cusp of achieving history. With your help, we can reach the seven-digit mark by the end of 2017.

Our Bluegrass, Blue Jeans and Bling Gala will be a pivotal event in catapulting us closer to our goal. The Gala Committee has committed to a goal of raising \$75,000 via this year's Gala, which is Sept. 16 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

The other critical component to reaching this historic milestone will be support from you!

As current SCC student and Student Success Scholarship recipient Dominic Caprita says, **"Without scholarship assistance, I would not be able to continue my education."**

With your support, we can help even more students like Dominic remain at SCC and achieve their dreams.

Student perspective: Temre Gillig

By Dr. Mark Ellison

Temre graduated from Southwestern in December with an associate degree in Human Services Technology. While at SCC, she received the Student Success Scholarship and the State Employees Credit Union Scholarship. The SCC Student Success Scholarship was made possible by donors to the SCC Foundation. Below, Temre discusses her experiences at SCC.

Q: What impact did the scholarships you received at SCC have on you?

I was and am extremely grateful for the scholarships that I received. As a single, non-working parent of four, the scholarships allowed me to not only stay in college and pay all my bills, but also gave me the ease of mind knowing that I was not going to end up homeless in the pursuit of my degree. The scholarships also recognized the hard work that I was putting in and my desire to succeed.

Q: What are your plans now that you have graduated?

I am currently attending Western Carolina University and pursuing my bachelor's degree in their Social Work program. I would eventually like to obtain a master's degree in social work and a minor in law.



Temre Gillig (second from left) was honored at the Fall Scholarship Luncheon for receiving a Student Success Scholarship. Pictured with Temre are, from left: Charles Wolfe, Chairman, Student Success Campaign; Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President; and Brett Woods, Director of SCC Foundation.

Q: How did SCC help you succeed?

The Human Services program, faculty, and staff inspired and instilled within me the knowledge that I need to succeed at WCU. SCC gives you all the support and love that you may or may not find within your own family. In such an environment, it is hard not to succeed. It was easy to be involved in events and programs on campus because they were set up to help you succeed.

Dr. Ellison is director of SCC's Student Support Services program. He is co-chair of the SCC Foundation Faculty Staff Advisory Council.



Members of the SCC Foundation Faculty Staff Advisory Council include, from left: Brett Woods, Kathy Posey, Savannah Wells, Dr. Cheryl Davids, Sheri Turk, Sheryl Monroe, Angie Noland, Erin McCully and Dr. Mark Ellison. Not pictured are Danell Moses, Jeanette White and Jennie Ashlock.

During last fall's Faculty/Staff campaign, which was organized by the SCC Foundation Faculty Staff Advisory Council, 64 SCC employees made gifts totaling \$12,230.

Points of pride



Applications are being accepted from SCC faculty and staff members for our SCC Foundation's annual mini grants. Below is a comment from one of last year's winners:

"Words are so inadequate to express how grateful I am for being chosen as a mini-grant recipient to buy science materials for my classroom. I am so excited to finally make science 'come alive' for my students! They, too, were overjoyed. Thank you from the bottom of my teacher heart."

--Nita Arnold, 2016 mini grant recipient.

From the director



Brett Woods

The most rewarding experience I have as director of the SCC Foundation comes each fall when I get to introduce donors to students who receive scholarships during our annual luncheon. Every single scholarship recipient has earned this honor, and the funding we're able to provide is a true blessing in each student's life and in turn blesses the donor as well.

My hope in the months and years ahead is that we can provide a "hand up" to even more students in the future. If you'd like to help, please contact me at

828.339.4241 or

b_woods@southwesterncc.edu.

Coming soon: Two major fundraisers

By Jennie Ashlock

SCC's Foundation secures funding to help students succeed. This year offers two exciting opportunities to engage in these efforts.

Bluegrass, Blue Jeans and Bling Gala

The third annual Bluegrass, Blue Jeans and Bling Gala is Saturday, Sept. 16, at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort. Funds raised support the goal of creating a \$1 million endowed fund primarily for student scholarships.

We anticipate raising \$875,198 by the end of this fiscal year, leaving \$125,000 to reach the mark. Last year's gala aised \$63,000. This year's goal is \$75,000. Together we will make it happen! Gala attendees enjoy an evening of food, music, silent auction and wine pull. Individual tickets are \$150. Sponsorship levels include: Diamond - \$5,000, Ruby - \$2,500 and Sapphire - \$1,500.

Ducks on the Tuck

Ducks on the Tuck is going virtual! The virtual Duck Race and Duck Draw Raffle are scheduled for Friday, May 12.

Tickets are available beginning April 1 and cost \$5/ticket or \$25 for a "Quack Pack" (6 tickets). Raffle tickets are available from New Century Scholar Coordinators and the SCC Foundation. The drawing for great prizes donated by area businesses will take place on May 12.

In addition, there will be a *Where's Tucker?* Duck Hunt with a geocaching element as participants search for Tucker the Duck in their community. Prizes will be offered.

New Century Scholars began in 1995 and has served over 2,200 students. This year, there are 299 participants in grades 7-12, and 225 others are attending SCC as adult students. Funding is provided through private donations, fundraisers and NCS endowments.

For more information contact Kathy Posey at 828.339.4227 or

k_posey@southwesterncc.edu.

Jennie Ashlock is the administrative assistant - enrollment services for the Swain Center. She is also co-editor of the SCC Foundation Newsletter.

Faculty perspective

Danell Moses, dean of career technologies

By Erin McCully

Danell Moses is the dean of the career technologies division at SCC. She recently shared some thoughts about the impact that the SCC Foundation scholarships have on students' lives here in our community.

"I have had many students who faced situations where they had to decide to go back to work full time because the cost of school was too burdensome," Danell says. She points out people may often think of the average college student as a "fresh-faced, recent high school graduate who lives at home," but that is not always the case at SCC. "We have students from all walks of life, those with families who support them and those whose families depend on them for support. Foundation Scholarships can assist anyone!"

Danell describes a student she had in class who received a scholarship from the Foundation. "He was an older student who had a family. He told me the scholarship money offset the costs of tuition and textbooks which in turn helped him to better provide for his family."



Danell Moses

"Students who receive scholarships do receive some money," Danell added, "but behind each check is someone rooting for them and expecting great things from them!"

Danell says she makes a monthly donation to the Foundation in the hopes that "the recipient of the funds feels my intent and good will." We hope you will join Danell in changing students' lives!

Erin McCully is the e-learning specialist. She is also co-editor of the SCC Foundation Newsletter.