

# Southwestern COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION CHANGE A LIFE



## SCC Foundation's fourth annual gala to be held Sept. 16

By Julia Hartbarger

This year, Southwestern Community College leaders aren't just planning another gala.

They're hoping for a million-dollar celebration.

The Southwestern Community College Foundation will hold its annual "Bluegrass, Blue Jeans & Bling" gala at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort just as the Student Success Campaign nears the completion of its "March to a Million" fundraising effort.

The campaign is less than \$53,000 shy of establishing the first \$1 million scholarship endowment in SCC's history. With enough support, the gala could push the campaign past the seven-figure mark.

"I am thrilled we are so close to reaching this historic goal," said Brett Woods, SCC Foundation director. "I am grateful to the many generous friends of SCC who have chosen to support our students through the Student Success Campaign. We hope everyone who's contributed to this effort – along with anyone who's been wanting to – will join us and ensure we get to celebrate on this special night."

This is the fourth straight year the SCC Foundation has held a gala in an effort to close the wide gap between the number of students that qualify for scholarships and the actual number of students that receive scholarships each year.

For the 2017-2018 academic year, 284 students applied for scholarships. SCC only had the resources available to award 69.

"Every year, our students amaze us with their work ethic, creativity and academic excellence,"

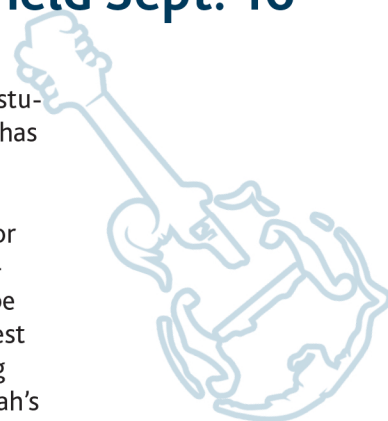
said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC president. "We are excited about the prospect of helping more students than ever before, and our annual gala has a lot to do with making that happen."

Frogtown will provide the bluegrass music for the evening, and classics singer Steve Johannessen will perform as well. There will also be a wine pull, silent auction, cornhole and a best dressed "Blue Jeans and Bling" contest along with the meal prepared by the chefs of Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

Tickets are \$150 each, and table sponsorships begin at \$1,500.

For more information, contact Kathy Posey, SCC Foundation development associate, at 828.339.4227 or visit [www.southwesterncc.edu/gala](http://www.southwesterncc.edu/gala).

*Julia Hartbarger is SCC's public relations assistant.*



### Sept. 16

Activities:

- Silent Auction
- Wine Pull
- Corn Hole
- Performance by bluegrass band Frogtown
- Best-Dressed "Blue Jeans & Bling" Contest

**Harrah's**  
**CHEROKEE**  
**CASINO RESORT**

Tickets, Sponsorships & info: 828.339.4227, [k\\_posey@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:k_posey@southwesterncc.edu) or [www.southwesterncc.edu/gala](http://www.southwesterncc.edu/gala)

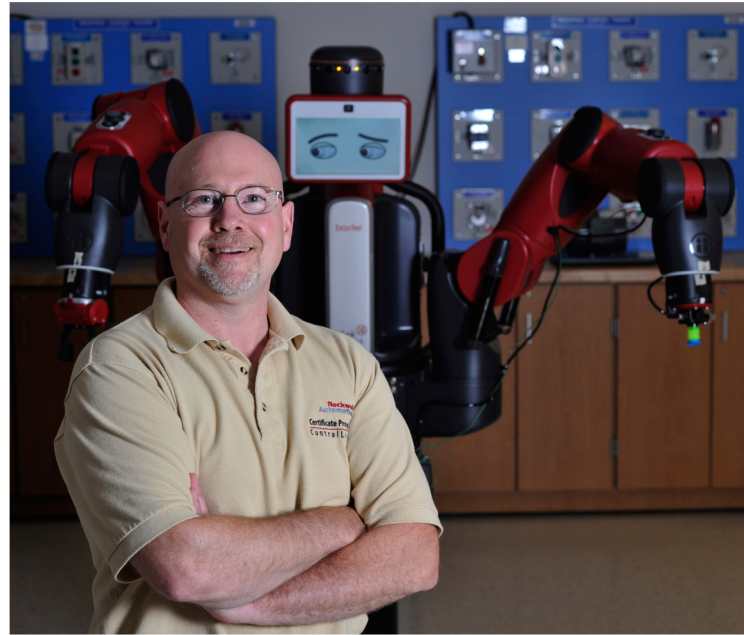


# Two SCC employees support future students through estate gifts

By Brett Woods and Erin McCully

*The 1964 Society, named in tribute of the year Southwestern Community College was founded, is an honorary society that recognizes and honors alumni and friends who have provided legacy gifts. Types of gifts include: making provisions for the Southwestern Community College Foundation (SCCF) in their will, naming SCCF as an owner and/or beneficiary of a full life insurance policy, establishing a charitable trust for the benefit of the SCC Foundation, or naming Southwestern Community College Foundation as a beneficiary in their retirement plan.*

*We don't usually like to brag, but the faculty and staff members of SCC are some of the most generous and inspiring people around. Just this year, two employees committed to providing estate gifts to ensure their generosity lives on long after them. While one donor wished to remain anonymous, another donor, Jim Falbo, Mechatronics and Electronics Engineering Technology Program Coordinator and Instructor, shared some of the motivations behind his decision.*



**Jim Falbo**

*Mechatronics and Electronics Engineering Technology  
Program Coordinator and Instructor*

**Q: What inspired you to consider making an estate gift to Southwestern Community College?**

A: SCC has given me more than it will ever know. I live where I want to (in the mountains), I am doing my hobby (robotics) and my passion (education) to make a living. It is truly something I am thankful for every drive into work. So, I decided to give back.

**Q: What is your vision for your gift?**

A: To hopefully help future students achieve a career they will love as much as I do mine.

**Q: Once you decided you wanted to plan an estate gift, what steps did you take?**

A: My first step was to update my will with these details, (which cost) \$65 on LegalZoom.com. Then I contacted Brett Woods to see what kind of paperwork was needed.

(Editor's note: The SCC paperwork is a single page and simply signals your commitment and desire for the use of the funds when they are realized.)

**Q: How long did it take?**

A: About an hour.

**Q: Not very long at all! Do you have any advice for others out there who may be considering the same path?**

A: Most people are not comfortable making changes like this in their will, but I can share that the plans are flexible and can be changed if circumstances dictate.

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

Our faculty and staff make up the core of Southwestern Community College and live out its mission each day, and for some, their generosity will live on after them through these types of legacy gifts. If you are considering an estate gift or another type of gift to the SCC Foundation, please contact Brett Woods at [b\\_woods@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:b_woods@southwesterncc.edu). To find out more about the 1964 Society, you can also visit our website at <http://www.southwesterncc.edu/Foundation>.



# Entegra's matching offer yields \$22,000 for Student Success

Considering Southwestern Community College launched its Student Success Campaign with a challenge grant a few years ago, it seemed appropriate that another matching offer recently allowed SCC to close in on the campaign's \$1 million goal.

Entegra Bank recently offered to match up to \$10,000 in gifts to the campaign, and the SCC Foundation quickly found a group of donors who fully leveraged the match and pushed the most-ambitious fundraising effort in school history to within \$53,000 of the seven-figure milestone.

Including the \$10,000 matching gift, Entegra Bank has now contributed more than \$68,000 to the Student Success Campaign.

"We have a number of employees who graduated from Southwestern Community College, and we recognize the value SCC brings to our community," said Roger Plemens, Entegra Bank's president and

chief executive officer. "We are always eager to support the SCC Foundation and its efforts to make a college education available to as many deserving students as possible."

Stepping up almost immediately to help maximize the match was Pepsi Cola of Whittier, which gave \$6,000 toward the effort. Allison Outdoor Advertising, Inc., gave \$2,000, and Leo James donated \$1,000 to the effort. Debora and Michael Lindsay of Epic West in Bryson City added \$3,000 to help SCC get closer to its goal of providing scholarship assistance to more students than ever before.

"Every year, hundreds of high-potential students reach out to our SCC Foundation for scholarship funding," said Dr. Don Tomas, president of SCC. "We typically are only able to assist roughly 25 percent of those who qualify for scholarships. Thanks to the generosity of Entegra, Pepsi, Epic

West, Leo James, Allison Outdoor and all of our other donors, we are working hard to change that."

For more information about SCC and the Student Success Campaign, contact Kathy Posey at 339.4227 or [k\\_posey@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:k_posey@southwesterncc.edu).



## Awarded 2017-2018 Scholarships by the Numbers

- The Foundation awarded 69 scholarships, totaling \$110,000
- Of those, 50 scholarships totaling \$90,250 were from endowed scholarships.
- Twenty-one of the 69 scholarships, totaling \$48,975, were from estate gifts.
- 284 students applied for scholarships.

## Student Ambassador Hannah Harris committed to supporting SCC Foundation

By Jennie Ashlock

For approximately 20 years, there have been Student Ambassadors on SCC's campus. Coordinated through the SCC Foundation, ambassadors are chosen from a pool of applicants to serve as the voice and face of SCC's student body.

Hannah Harris, a second-year respiratory therapy student, is one of two ambassadors chosen to serve in this capacity for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Hannah said she wanted to be a student ambassador because she enjoys being involved, meeting new people and giving back to her school. She was "looking for a way to plug-in to the college" and this was it.

Hannah also wants to promote community colleges as a viable option. She is impressed by the intimacy and convenience of SCC's campus and the support and accessibility of her instructors. After graduating from Western Carolina with a speech therapy degree, Hannah realized she wanted to study her initial interest: respiratory therapy. Upon the recommendation of a friend attending SCC at the time, Hannah researched, applied to and was accepted into the program in the fall of 2016.



Hannah said she enjoys relating to students and helping them connect with the college. She wants to be "a voice and advocate for students" during her final year on campus. Hannah said she is particularly excited about giving campus tours and sharing information about campus resources with her fellow students. Other responsibilities will include: attending Foundation events and meetings, assisting with Admission events and promoting student services and activities. Ambassadors also receive a stipend through the Foundation's Annual Fund.

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





POINTS OF PRIDE

- As the nation’s only community college to have a scientific partnership with NASA, Southwestern is leading the way in preparing the region for the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse.



- SCC’s Small Business Center recently opened a new location in Franklin, where director Tiffany Henry will offer seminars and one-on-one counseling.



- Under the guidance of instructor Jim Falbo, mechatronics students built a SWAT robot that was donated to the Macon County Sheriff’s Office.



- Three commencement ceremonies on May 13 were held to accommodate the largest graduating class in Southwestern’s history.



# Dr. Graham uses mini-grant to shine spotlight on Educational Opportunities students

By Jennie Ashlock

Dr. Patricia Graham knows what it takes to navigate the path of education path and she is dedicated to helping her students do the same.

A 2005 SCC graduate, Graham holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western Carolina University as well as a doctorate from Capella University. She now serves as an Educational Opportunities instructor.

This year, Graham received a mini-grant from SCC’s Foundation. The grant’s purpose is to “support creativity, encourage innovation and foster the exploration of new ideas.” Graham’s project is Through Their Eyes: The Quill Took Flight, an anthology of short works written by students enrolled in the Educational Opportunities Program on SCC’s Sylva campus.

Graham’s students include native English speakers and second language learners. Writing is a powerful tool to teach effective communication skills, which employers look for when hiring. Being published is also a way for students to feel validated. Graham said many of her ESL and GED students do not receive the same recognition as other students, so the book is one way to show case their abilities.

Approximately 25 students submitted entries of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Cultures represented include: Gujarati, Chinese, Viet-



namese, Spanish, Arabic, Thai, and English. The book is scheduled for purchase beginning mid-late August, 2017 through, among others, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and City Lights Bookstore.

The book’s cover contains the image of a bright Phoenix rising. As Graham wrote in her cover explanation, “Like a phoenix rising from the fire, so are our students at Southwestern Community College...We would like to see all of our students fulfill the potential of becoming a new, vibrant phoenix by challenging all expectations placed upon them, whether this be in society, economically, or academically.”

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

## Faculty & staff support of Foundation reaches record levels

By Dr. Mark Ellison & Brett Woods

Faculty and staff support of the SCC Foundation has made a tremendous impact on student success at Southwestern. Forty-three employees in 2016 donated using payroll deduction, which was a 125-percent increase from the prior year, while the amount contributed by payroll deduction also increased 70 percent, from \$7,344 to \$12,500.

Your investment in the success of our students is so encouraging! Our goal for

this coming year is to see if we can get 100 faculty and staff members participating in the campaign. That would be an incredible testament to the collective investment we have in the success of our students.

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

*Brett Woods is director of the SCC Foundation.*