

The Link—November 2012

Alumni news from
Danville Community College
for alumni from *Danville Technical Institute,*
VPI-Danville and Danville Community College

Your knowledge of our alumni is vital in the college's ability to honor deserving individuals; please feel free to forward names throughout the year. For 2013, nominations will close in late November. Don't let an outstanding alumni remain unrecognized.

***Nominations are now being accepted
for
Outstanding Alumni
and
Sports Hall of Fame
recipients. Please send a brief e-mail
concerning the individual and possible contact
information to
alumni@dcc.vccs.edu
by November 15, 2012.***

Alumni, region's supporters make difference

\$7 million!!!

Major Gifts Campaign successful

"We have averaged close to \$10,000 daily in gifts, every day, seven days a week for 24 consecutive months. I am humbled by the overwhelming support."

-Shannon Hair, Executive Director DCC Foundation

\$7,120,000: there was applause as Shannon Hair, Executive Director of the DCC Foundation announced October 15, 2012, that Danville Community College's Major Gifts Campaign, *The Power of One*, not only reached but also has exceeded \$7 million, major monetary gifts to be used to fund four college objectives outlined to the public in news publications and in an ongoing publicity campaign over the past two years.

The over-the-top announcement of contributions from individuals, groups, and businesses in DCC's service region as well as from outside groups was made at a joint meeting of the DCC Board and the DCC Foundation Board in Foundation Hall. Spread across tables in front of Hair were gift-wrapped boxes representing campaign contributors: medical, retirees, foundations, individuals and employees. As the gift-wrapped boxes were slowly removed, the numerals forming \$7,120,000 carved in individual cakes began to take shape across the tables.

Overhead was a large graphic of a thermometer with its fluid bursting through the thermometer's top. But that thermometer was to sit tantalizingly close to the top for a long number of months as the campaign moved forward.

Hair explained that 24 months ago, when he was hired as the Foundation Director, the college's president, Dr. Carlyle Ramsey, asked him pointedly, "Can you raise \$7 million?" That daunting question was a driving force as the Major Gifts Campaign became a public information piece driven by committees on the college boards, local individuals, alumni, DCC employees, members of Hair's staff and local businessmen.

Those individuals and businesses believed that even in hard economic times, creating student success in scholarship funding, tutoring, on-going faculty train-

ing, purchasing and training in cutting-edge technology and in new training and workforce development programs was essential.

Libby Spainhour, DCC's College Board president, explained, "\$7 million is a lot of money. This community stepped up to the plate with gifts both large and small. We have a large service area in which we are fortunate to have many caring people."

But the \$7 million and beyond achievement took time. "I wanted to raise it in a year," Hair said, "but that did not occur. I didn't do it alone; this was a large, large group effort with many individuals beyond my office putting in numerous unpaid hours because they believed in the need. We raised over \$5 million the first year. Then just a few weeks ago, we were at \$6.3 million and working on several areas—grants and possible donors, local and national. We've never believed this objective would not happen. We've known it was only a matter of time before we hit the \$7 million mark, but in the past few weeks the accomplishment unfolded; the news came in that we had gone beyond expectations."

Hair noted that 2012 is not over; there are still two and a half months and he is aware that there is opportunity to add to the funding final amount by year's end. "I wanted something special for the community and for Dr. Ramsey's legacy as President. This has been a community effort; that is one thing that makes this achievement so special. In 24 months, this effort has created something unique for the college. We have truly been supported. We have averaged close to \$10,000 daily in gifts, every day, seven days a week for 24 consecutive months. I am humbled by the overwhelming support."

Dr. Ramsey agreed as he spoke to the boards, "This achievement is about you and what you've done, not about us. What you've helped create is critical to the ongoing student and faculty success. The funding will purchase critically needed equipment, promote workforce development and assure student success over and over."

2012 Scholarships

When a Neighbor

Helps a Neighbor

“...over 300 awards were given to worthy students in the amount of \$700,000, which was the first such outcome for both students and DCC.”

-Shannon Hair, Executive Director, DCC Educational Foundation

“...I am looking forward to when the Foundation awards its first \$1,000,000 in scholarship aid.”

-Dr. B. Carlyle Ramsey, President, Danville Community College



The word “scholarship” has many different forms of meaning. Merriam-Webster defines the word as a “grant-in-aid to a student,” but in the Danville Community College Educational Foundation Office for Institutional Advancement (IA), it is defined as a “neighbor helping a neighbor.” In 2010 there were less than eighty scholarships on file in the IA Office with less than \$300,000 in annual awards given to less than 175 DCC students. Also in 2010, our college records showed that over 300 students had applied and been awarded Federal and Stafford loans that eclipsed more than \$750,000 in student debt. This was and is a staggering figure. Studies show that in 2012/2013, the student debt total nationally will rise to well over \$1 Trillion, yes with a “T.”

As a former student at DCC who walked away with two degrees in hand, I too had student debt linger over my head. It is a heavy burden for any student to walk away with a degree in one hand and a payment book in the other. Any individual would have to question the validity of such a confusing feat....own a degree and owe debt? Yes, unfortunately that has become the realm of possibility for so many students, even our own at Danville Community College.

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As I returned from the holiday break in January, 2011, I decided the numbers referenced above needed to be reversed. I thought to myself, why not have 300 students receive \$700,000 in scholarship aid instead of 300 students receive \$700,000 in student loans. At that time, I decided to personally pursue a goal of creating one new scholarship monthly to help achieve such a monumental feat. To date, close to 30 new scholarships have been penciled into our accountings, which range from annual scholarships of \$500 to endowed scholarships in the amount of \$120,000 and greater.

On Monday evening, September 10, 2012, the 13th Annual Scholarship Reception was conducted. For the first time, it was held off campus at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. Over 600 individuals were in attendance, which was the largest number ever present. Donors from around the state drove to Danville to meet their recipients, board members

from the College Board and Educational Foundation Board were in attendance and close to 94 percent of the scholarship recipients were in attendance to hear their names called and to meet their scholarship donors.

During this night of recognition, the feat was accomplished...over 300 awards were given to worthy students in the amount of \$700,000, which was the first such outcome for both students and DCC. The culmination of hard work and very giving people in our community was visible and felt by all.

Dr. Ramsey said that night, "I recall a time when the first \$100,000 was given away in scholarship aid by the Educational Foundation, and I am looking forward to when the Foundation awards its first \$1,000,000 in scholarship aid."

Within those 300 awards announced, the following are just a few newly created scholarships that were announced that Monday night:

- **DRMC Scholar Award** - An annual scholarship created by DRMC/Lifepoint to financially assist first and second year nursing students with their tuition, books and fees. Twelve (12) to 14 and as many as 16 nursing students, who apply and are deemed eligible, are interviewed and awarded this two -year scholarship that could lead to employment after graduation and board approval.
- **STEM-H Tobacco Commission Assistance Scholarship** – An annual scholarship (last dollar/tuition only) for those students that apply and are deemed eligible that are enrolled in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math or Health Science curriculum. This award is for each semester; the student must re-apply every semester to maintain his/her scholarship.
- **Student Fund Drive Award** – This award is one of the most rewarding for the student. For every student willing to raise \$500 for the IA Office, he/she is rewarded with a gift of \$1,000 to be used for tuition, books or fees. Over \$25,000 in new monies were raised by the student population, which led to over \$50,000 being awarded in scholarship aid for 2012. This effort will continue on an annual basis and will be used as our Annual Student Fund Drive.
- **Womack Foundation Scholar Award** – The Womack Foundation has made it a priority within the Foundation to provide financial assistance to DCC on an emergency basis to students that do not qualify for federal or state aid and/or that cannot afford to attend DCC. This program, in the fall 2012 semester, awarded over \$35,000 in assistance for those eligible students. One component of this aid is that for every student awarded monies, they will volunteer at a local non-profit a total of 10 percent of their gift to "pay back" into the community. In the fall alone, over 3,500 volunteer hours will have been worked, which equates to over 18 months of volunteer time worked in less than five calendar months.
- **Veterans Scholarships** – Over 200 of DCC's student family are returning Veterans or Veterans that no longer have assistance. Over \$25,000 in Vet-

eran Scholarship aid will be awarded during the 2012/2013 academic year. To be eligible for these awards, please visit the IA Office located in Foundation Hall, Room 211.

- Virginia Tobacco Assistance Scholarship – The Virginia Tobacco Commission has now awarded scholarship aid for over a decade to students in Southside and in Southwest, Virginia. Over \$360,000 in scholarship aid (last dollar/tobacco families) will see aid come their way in 2012/2013. There will be \$400,000 in aid for the 2013/2014 academic year to eligible students.
- DCC Educational Foundation Scholarships – The IA Office has over 115 scholarships for which students can apply. . Many are annual scholarships that are awarded on annual gifts to the Educational Foundation.

It should be noted that all 2013/2014 scholarship applications will be accepted for submittal after January 1, 2013, and until April 1, 2013. All students can either apply online after January 1 or pick-up a paper copy of the application in the IA Office located in Foundation Hall, Room 211. All students must apply for financial aid prior to submitting the application in order to considered.

Again, let us from the College and the Educational Foundation thank the many scholarship contributors from 2012 and in previous years for their abilities to financially assist the local DCC students' educations...again, at DCC, we believe when a "neighbor helps a neighbor, there is no better feeling in the world!"

Shannon L. Hair
Educational Foundation
Executive Director



NURSING program expands

89 RN students, 29 LPN students

"Such a rapid increase in students training for nursing careers demonstrates the positive impact the \$9.4 million grant from the Danville Regional Foundation has made in meeting regional nursing requirements since the facility opened in 2009"

-Tammy McKinney, DCC Director of Nursing



Forty-six first-year, registered nursing students as well as 29 licensed practical nursing students entered Danville Community College's nursing program in August according to Tammy McKinney, DCC Director of Nursing. Fourteen of the 89 registered nursing students, returning for their second year of instruction, anticipate graduation in spring 2013.

With 89 registered nursing students, the 120 percent increase in total students indicates the new availability of training space and increased faculty, both items resulting from the opening of Foundation Hall in 2009. Until the new medical training facility was completed, numbers accepted into the nursing program were severely restricted because of DCC's space limitations.

"Such a rapid increase in students training for nursing careers demonstrates the positive impact the \$9.4 million grant from the Danville Regional Foundation has made in meeting regional nursing requirements since the facility opened in 2009," McKinney pointed out. "Hopefully many of these graduates will stay in the community as did those we trained, beginning in 1953, in the licensed practical nursing program. Virginia is experiencing a grave shortage in nurses because they are retiring at a rapid rate while the aging population and medical advances are increasing the need for medical personnel, especially medical support personnel."

"In the off-campus clinicals, we are effectively able to integrate classroom instruction into the bigger picture. I have trained in nursing homes, on different floors of the hospital, at the free clinic, in physicians' offices and with PATHS."

-Amber Wolf, RN student

For nursing student Gabriel Compton, 22, staying in the Danville area is quite logical since "Danville, the community I grew up in, is a growing community offering so much to its citizens. I would definitely like to participate in the future growth in the community by working with the people from the region. My goal is not just to complete my RN program; I would like to get my Masters' degree or possibly my doctorate."

"I've only been in the classroom about six weeks, but I feel like I'm at the beginning of a career that should include a specialization. I realize already, because of my instructors, that I can be far more useful and provide more advanced care if I continue to pursue further training after I finish DCC's program in 2014. I believe that the more hats you wear, the better you are relative to nursing."

Because nursing is such a vital component for adding to communities' quality of life for residents, Danville Community College initiated the Associate in Arts degree for registered nurses in 2009 as Foundation Hall opened. In May 2011, the first 13 students in Registered Nursing received their Associate of Arts in Nursing degrees. Because DCC has over 30 transfer agreements with colleges throughout Virginia, their registered nursing graduates can transfer from DCC after graduation to continue their educations toward the bachelor-of-science in nursing while working in nursing during their continued training.

Those transfer agreements are based on the history and long-term success of DCC'S nursing program. For years the LPN program has been known as a program with almost perfect pass rates on the state examination. Again this past year, there was a 100 percent pass rate in the LPN program. For the new RN program, there was a 92 percent pass rate.

Compton commented, "For anyone interested in nursing, DCC is the place to be. My expectations have been met. Already, in the early weeks, we have gone above and beyond what I had expected to encounter in preparing for our careers. I have been thoroughly impressed with my instructors and their broad knowledge as well as dedication to us becoming the best nurses possible. They intend for us to know much more than what is just in textbooks."

For Amber Wolf, 31, who already holds a BS degree in behavioral health, a return to the classroom meant many discussions with colleges throughout North Carolina as well as with Danville Community College. "My husband and I knew that I would be quitting my job during a very trying time period, so I was hesitant about returning to the college classroom. Tammy McKinney at DCC communicated back-and-forth with me by e-mail and talked with me a number of times."

"Sometimes for students who are hesitant about returning to the classroom, it is that extra focus from instructors that makes him or her aware that they can return to the college classroom and be successful. The instructors at DCC often explain how the student can be successful in a way that is logical. I felt that many of the other colleges didn't truly care the way the instructors at DCC care."

Wolf continued, "I wanted to be involved in nursing since I had been sending nurses into homes and listening to their stories afterward when they returned to the office. I didn't want to just listen to the stories; I wanted to participate. The training so far is everything I imagined and more. In the off-campus clinicals, we are effectively able to integrate classroom instruction into the bigger picture. I have trained in nursing homes, on different floors of the hospital, at the free clinic, in physicians' offices and with PATHS."

During the RN program, registered nursing students must log 500 direct clinical hours while students in the LPN program must log 400 direct clinical-care hours. Every week students are working in local medical facilities, gaining training that reinforces classroom instruction but also takes them beyond the specifics tested on the state board certification.

"Because there is so much to learn and many of the students have families or are forced to work at least part-time, Foundation Hall has been an absolute gift to them and to the community," McKinney emphasized. "The facility allows students to work together in study groups, to use labs and to work with simulators in

practice situations that prevent mistakes while allowing them to become experts before they encounter patients. Beyond these specific training areas, the facility gives the nursing students a place to study quietly between classes or to form study groups with those who are present in labs or classrooms."

"With simulators they practice real-life scenarios prior to going into clinical situations. We have simulators for practicing IV insertions, tracheotomy insertions and accurately measuring blood pressure. Whatever action the student will be expected to perform can first be practiced on a simulator." McKinney explained, "These practice sessions alleviate stress that occurs when a student has to insert a needle into a human being. After four weeks in the classroom, students start working in clinical situations; those first weeks in clinical situations can be very stressful."

Compton explained, "I'm excited about entering the clinical part of the instruction. I'll begin my clinical at Roman Eagle nursing home where I will be performing the areas we have trained in during the DCC lab time: bed making, baths and other related skills."

For Wolf, the labs in Foundation Hall contain " great equipment; for instance we can learn to do blood pressure measurements with the teacher setting the measurement, then the student working with the mannequin to take the pressure and report to the instructor what he or she has determined the pressure to be. This way we know whether we are reading the pressure correctly, and the instructor can move forward or show us why we are having difficulties before we work with human patients."

To assure that the nursing program is aligned with other colleges' nursing programs throughout the nation, the DCC program and its instructors have initiated a two-year process leading to National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission" (NLNAC) certification, the process that assures continuity across the states. The program in one area is required to be compatible with the program in another area for the college to attain national certification. According to McKinney, "The certification is a costly process for colleges to engage in. But, our students should have the same opportunities as any other students statewide and nationally."

Beyond seeking this national accreditation, the Registered Nursing Program is scheduled for a site visit from the Virginia Board of Nursing this fall. Members of the state board visited two years ago when the registered nursing program opened. Because this is a first-time, new program, the state board will conduct a return visit to assess the program.

Commenting about the national shortage in nursing instructors, which is an ongoing problem in every college training nurses, McKinney emphasized that the pay in the educational environment is much less than nursing instruc-

tors can expect in hospitals and other medical facilities as nurses. "Because of this pay differential, those who teach nursing have a true passion for increasing the numbers of nurses in the state and nationally. Thus they expect their students to diligently work to meet deadlines, to follow instructions exactly and to be professional in every action, since they are on the front lines in helping save lives," McKinney said.

AT DCC nursing instructors have been training nursing students since the call went out locally over the radio in 1953 for individuals interested in nursing to help fill a medical need in Danville, Pittsylvania County and Halifax County by enrolling in Danville Technical Institute to train in nursing. The program was the first licensed practical nursing program taught at what is now Danville Community College. In 2003 the 1,000th licensed practical nurse graduated from Danville Community College, a milestone but only one among many in a soon to be 60-year-old LPN program.



Have **YOU** registered on the alumni website?

To register on the website, go to the [Registration Link](#) or go to DCC home page at <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/foundation/alumni>. The Alumni information window will then open to explain use of the web site and to direct you as to how to access the alumni web site or go to <https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/> to access the website.

Alumni Association has presence on Facebook

*Danville Community College's site can be accessed
whenever you open Facebook*

If you do not have a personal page, you will need to register with Facebook, which is quite easy; just follow their simple windows and create your page typing in normal login requirements whether you intend to contact anyone or not. Once you have registered, whenever you open Facebook, you will probably be taken to the "Home" page of your personal site. From there you need to type in "Danville Community College" and find us in your list of choice. Click on the link to go to the DCC page and become a fan.

Once registered, each time you open your home page, you can navigate to the left to the listing titled "Pages" and click on that link. Danville Community College should be listed with its link. Click on the hyperlink which will navigate you to the DCC page. There we hope you will register as a DCC fan and give us some information about your career and family. If you want to take a look at the DCC page before registering, paste in the following link in your browser <http://www.facebook.com/n/?pages/Danville-VA/Danville-Community-College>.

Another communication site for DCC information is Flickr. Numerous photos from the Foundation Hall dedication (as well as other recent DCC events) are available online. Prints can be downloaded at the DCC Flickr account (www.flickr.com/dccpr). Check it out.

Be sure to check out DCC's latest News Releases!

Online Newsroom

<http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/News/News%20Releases%20home.htm>

FEEDBACK? Comments, questions, requests concerning alumni operations or *The Link* can be directed to alumni relations coordinator, at alumni@dcc.vccs.edu
