Twenty-three philanthropy leaders from across the commonwealth were honored on April 21, 2009, at the Country Club of Virginia, as part of the fourth Annual Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The award recognizes outstanding contributions made to the growth and development of Virginia’s Community Colleges and their respective foundations.

The honoree for Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) was Bob G. Sowder, a Catlett resident, who was instrumental in helping establish the College’s Fauquier Campus.

While serving on the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce, Sowder and other community leaders were working to open a college center in Warrenton. The problem they faced was a lack of adequate facilities. The search was on to find someone who could afford to donate land or a facility to LFCC to expand into Fauquier County.

Sowder didn’t immediately think about donating his farm, but while selling alfalfa one day, he looked at his barn in a different light. He noticed that each of the stalls had a door on it. He grabbed a tape measure and found the dimensions of the barn to be 60 x 100 feet, with the stalls making six nice-sized rooms.

At the next chamber meeting, Sowder proposed the gift of his barn and an interest-free loan of $90,000 for renovations. In 1988, he donated his barn to LFCC and began working to renovate the building. After pouring his time, energy and money into renovations, Sowder saw the work completed that year. His gift appraised at $437,000, including the three and a half acres accompanying the barn.

Sowder negotiated for — and the College was given — 50 more acres when he sold the remainder of his farm to Fauquier County. Following these negotiations and the additional land given to LFCC, the Virginia General Assembly in 1996 appropriated $7.2 million to construct the current 60,000 square-foot classroom and administrative building on the Fauquier Campus. Celebration of the opening of the new campus building occurred three years later in 1999.

Sowder, a former LFCC Educational Foundation Board member who served on the Board from 1989 to 2007, has continued to support LFCC monetarily throughout the years, including the development of the Bob G. Sowder Scholarship.

“I believe that you get so much more than you give,” Sowder said. “I meet parents and students who have benefited from the scholarship I established, allowing them to get an education when they might not have been able to otherwise.”
September 2009

Teaching and Learning

● LFCC continues to experience an increase in enrollment each year. Based on current enrollment figures, LFCC is on track to serve more than 6,600 students by the end of the fall 2009 semester, compared to 5,867 students in the fall of 2008. The College also had an almost 17-percent increase in students for summer 2009 compared to summer 2008.

● Online learning provides students with convenient and flexible opportunities to complete course requirements, but also comes with unique challenges. The faculty, staff and administrators at LFCC want to provide new online learners with every opportunity to succeed. With that goal in mind, the Instructional Technology Office has developed a self-paced course that provides hands-on introduction to enhance students’ learning experience.

For more information, please contact Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Sloan at cthompson-sloan@lfcc.edu or 540-868-7101.

Student Success

● An outstanding graduate from the Middletown Campus was Liesle Biggs of Front Royal, who earned an associate degree in science. Prior to attending LFCC, Liesle was home-schooled. She plans to transfer to a four-year institution to pursue her studies in the field of medicine. Liesle received the William H. McCoy scholarship for the 2007-08 academic year at LFCC and the General Electric Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics award and the Outstanding Achievement in History award for 2009.

Liesle Biggs, a May 2009 LFCC graduate, says the College was “such a good choice and a perfect stepping stone between high school and a four-year college.”

● Another outstanding graduate from the Faquier Campus was Luke Lambdin of Jeffersonton. Luke began attending LFCC at age 16 through the Dual Enrollment Program. He graduated at age 18 with an associate degree in business administration. This fall, he will attend James Madison University, where he will pursue a bachelor’s degree in justice studies. In 2008-09, he served as president of the Student Government Association for the Faquier Campus. He was also a member of the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and Ambassadors club and Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges.

● LFCC student Robin Martin was one of 30 Phi Theta Kappa members from 21 states named as recipients of the 2009 Phi Theta Kappa Leaders of Promise Scholarships. Winners received scholarships of $1,000 to further their associate degree studies.

For more information, please contact Cindy Barbara at cbbara@lfcc.edu or 540-351-1516.

Partnerships and Outreach

● Students at the Luray–Page County Center have collected items to help the community. The items include coats for the less fortunate during the winter months; pet food and supplies for the local animal shelter; and school supplies for less fortunate children.

Author and education expert Tony Wagner visits LFCC to share strategies for teaching 21st Century students with local educators.

● Nearly 300 teachers and school administrators gathered at Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) on Aug. 6 to hear best selling national author and educational “guru” Tony Wagner on “Educating in the 21st Century.” School officials and teachers walked away with a new perspective about teaching the Internet generation to bring back to their schools and implement in the months to come.

For more information, please contact Joann Clark at jclark@lfcc.edu or 540-868-7122.

Resource Development and Public Relations

● The LFCC Educational Foundation Inc. is raising funds to help cover the expenses associated with establishing men’s and women’s basketball teams at LFCC. For more information on this and the other initiatives for which the Foundation is seeking funds, please visit http://www.lfccfoundation.org/ways-to-give/ and click on “Priorities” on the left-hand side of the Web page.


● LFCC now offers a dynamic virtual tour on our Web site. Come visit two of our LFCC locations – the Faquier Campus and the Middletown Campus – with the click of a mouse button. See inside the buildings using panoramic images that you can control. Please visit http://www.lfcc.edu/virtual-tour/. Thank you!

● The Foundation recently announced the appointment of six new board members:

• Julie S. Clevenger, a Middle- town resident, is a professional preservationist, grant writer, development director and author. Currently, she serves as the vice president for The Quarters Foundation, which is located in the City of Hampton, Va.

• Shanna Kuhlman, a Front Royal resident, is currently enrolled as a student at LFCC. She is pursuing an associate degree in liberal arts and a certificate in wildlife and nature photography. She will serve a one-year term.

• Lisa M. Prodywus, a Stephens City resident, is the marketing manager for The Library Corporation (TLC) in Inwood, W.Va. In this position, she oversees the marketing department for TLC, which has offices in Inwood, Denver and Singapore.

• Barton “Bart” J. Pyle, a Stephens City resident, is the financial planning strategist at BB&T Wealth Management in the Blue Ridge Region. In this position, he assists clients in the formation of a comprehensive financial plan that outlines a multi-disciplined approach for achieving identified financial objectives.

• Robert “Rob” M. Talton, a Winchester resident, is the assistant vice president and financial center manager of the Valley Avenue location for Wachovia Bank, N.A., a Wells Fargo company.

For more information, please contact Linnie Carter at lcarter@lfcc.edu or 540-868-4077.

Other College News

● Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) will hold in 2009 Alumni Reunion on Nov. 7, 2009, from 7 to 9 p.m. at LFCC’s Middletown Campus. All LFCC alumni are invited to take this opportunity to “Walk Down Memory Lane” with your former LFCC classmates and current and former faculty and staff members.

● LFCC is soliciting ideas for the College’s strategic plan. Watch your e-mail for information about an on-campus feedback form and ways you can participate in on-site and online discussion groups.

● The Corron Community Development Center is on schedule for completion in summer 2009. This important addition to the Middletown Campus will provide state-of-the-art training and special events facilities for College and community use.

The LFCC dental hygiene class of 2009 treated 767 clients and provided approximately $704,000 of services to the community at no charge to the clients! Our dental hygiene students have provided preventive dental services to more than 760 local residents in the last two years.

2009 Calendar Items

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date / Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Eight-Week Classes End</td>
<td>Oct. 19, 2009</td>
<td>All College Locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Eight-Week Registration Deadline</td>
<td>Oct. 20, 2009</td>
<td>All College Locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni Reunion</td>
<td>Nov. 7, 2009 / 7 - 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Middletown Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2009 Classes End</td>
<td>Dec. 11, 2009</td>
<td>All College Locations</td>
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