Clay Athey’s parents instilled in him the philosophy that it was his responsibility to give back to the community. While attending Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC), Athey discovered that the College and its faculty and staff also fostered that belief. This helped to enforce a sense of service in Athey that is exhibited in his legal and political careers.

After receiving an associate's degree in business administration from LFCC in 1988, Athey continued his educational pursuits at Virginia Commonwealth University where he received a bachelor's degree in history. He then went on to receive a juris doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law.

"I learned so much at LFCC. It was the perfect place for me. In addition to the affordability, the personal attention from my professors made all the difference."

Now a partner with Napier, Pond, Athey & Athey P.C., Athey practices mainly corporate and land use law. In addition to his successful career as a lawyer, Athey became involved in public service, serving as a member on the Front Royal Town Council and as mayor of the Town of Front Royal. The next step in his political career was the Virginia General Assembly.

Athey's first term as delegate began in January 2002. Representing the 18th District, which includes part of Fauquier and Frederick counties and all of Warren County, Athey is a huge advocate for LFCC and community colleges in general. "I strongly believe in the community college system, which gives people the opportunity to better themselves and their lives. Community colleges reach the broadest group of people, from kids in high school to grandparents and people out of work."

In 2005, Athey was chief patron of legislation requiring the establishment of articulation agreements between community colleges within the Virginia Community College System and four-year public colleges and universities. Approved by Gov. Mark Warner, the legislation will go into effect with the 2006-07 academic year.

"With the rising costs of tuition at four-year colleges, it is important that community colleges and four-year institutions become partners. By working together, individuals of modest means can cost-effectively afford to attend college."

Athey's service to his community is a good reminder to others that everyone can make a difference in their world. "I got involved in politics and public service because I have to answer the question, "What have I done to help my fellow man and the kids who are our future?""
Teaching and Learning
LFCC is committed to (1) meeting the needs of students by increasing academic offerings, convenient class locations and partnerships with business, industry and senior educational institutions and (2) providing professional development for all employees.

- The Science and Health Professions Building ground-breaking ceremony was held on Sept. 21. Guest speakers included Kathy Taggery, vice president for nursing and chief nursing officer for Winchester Medical Center, and Keith Rice, a nursing student at LFCC. Photographs, architectural drawings and facts about the new building are located on the College Web site at http://www.lfcc.edu/News/index.html in the “LFCC Science and Health Professions Building Media Kit” section.

- This fall, LFCC added the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-Intermediate program to its list of offerings. The program is being offered in partnership with the Lord Fairfax Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council, a nonprofit, private organization made up of the various groups involved in the local EMS system.

- Katherine Simpson, associate professor of English at LFCC, has been nominated for the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award. The award recognizes graduate students who are committed to developing academic and civic responsibility in themselves and others and who show exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education. Simpson will complete a doctoral degree in instructional technology from George Mason University in December 2009.

- LFCC and The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (GW SMHS) signed an affiliation agreement that will benefit students planning to pursue careers in the pharmaceutical industry or clinical pharmacy.

Student Success
LFCC is committed to providing students with a variety of academic, cultural and wellness activities and services to enhance their educational experience at the College.

- LFCC established the English Language Academy at the Middletown Campus to assist individuals who are more comfortable speaking a language other than English. Currently, 20 students are utilizing the services available through the English Language Academy, including, but not limited to, English language tutoring groups, individualized learning and education plans and placement testing and language evaluation. For more information, individuals may contact Miriam Moore, director of the English Language Academy, at (540) 868-7173 or mm Moore2@lfcc.edu.

- LFCC’s dental hygiene students participated in a community health project by providing oral cancer screenings for area senior citizens at the Agency on Aging in Berryville, Stephens City and Winchester. The project was facilitated by Claudia Mazurkiewicz, administrative coordinator of the dental hygiene program at LFCC, and was funded through a mini-grant awarded by the LFCC Educational Foundation.

Partnerships and Outreach
LFCC is committed to meeting the training and educational needs of businesses and individuals in the area.

- The Office of Workforce Services and Continuing Education at LFCC was recently awarded $130,000 for the education provider contract for the Skills Enhancement Program (SEP) at the Ford Distribution Center in Winchester. The SEP provides the opportunity for eligible United Auto Workers Union employees and their spouses to continue their education; sharpen their skills in areas such as math, reading comprehension and computers; and receive educational advising services that could lead to mastering new skills or achieving personal goals.

- LFCC established the Institute of Culture and History to provide quality and affordable non-credit classes that give individuals a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions, including area history and culture. Two lectures on the Middle East were offered in September, and a Civil War lecture was offered in November. These events were free and open to the public. For more information, please visit the Web site at http://www.lfcc.edu/WorkforceServices/

- LFCC’s Luray-Page County Center conducted a career planning and registration workshop for all former Wrangler employees on Oct. 11 at Page County High School. Participants met with LFCC student success representatives to discuss College admissions, academic and career counseling, financial aid and registration.

Resource Development and Public Relations
LFCC is committed to (1) keeping the public informed about the programs and services available at the College and (2) coordinating fund raising for scholarships, facilities upgrades, faculty and program development.

- The Winchester Medical Center Foundation has provided $30,000 to the LFCC Educational Foundation for a nursing scholarship.

- Approximately 200 individuals attended the inaugural LFCC alumni reception on Oct. 15. Alumni; retired faculty; current faculty; the founding president of LFCC, William McCoy; and the current president, John J. “Ski” Sygielski, came together to celebrate the College’s 35th anniversary, reminisce, renew old friendships and cultivate new ones. Photographs from the event are available on the College Web site at http://www.lfcc.edu/Alumni/.

- Earlier this year, the Monford D. and Lucy L. Custer Foundation contributed $20,000 to the LFCC Educational Foundation to establish the Monford D. and Lucy L. Custer Nursing Scholarship Fund at LFCC. The scholarship was created to benefit nursing students at the College. On Oct. 16, the children of Monford D. and Lucy L. Custer—Danny Custer, Ellen Morgan, Linda Russell and Herb Sanders—hosted a special event at the Russell home to raise money for the scholarship. To date, the guests have contributed $9,400 to the scholarship fund.

- The LFCC Educational Foundation awarded scholarships totaling $8,830 to 14 students for the 2005-06 academic year. These students represented the eight localities in the College’s service area. For a list of the scholarship recipients, please visit the College Web site at http://www.lfcc.edu/News/releases.shtm and see the scholar-ship-related news releases from August, September and October.

- The LFCC Educational Foundation recently established five new scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded to full- or part-time students to assist with the cost of tuition and fees. The scholarships are as follows:
  - Fauquier Business and Professional Women Scholarship
  - Northern Virginia Building Industry Association Scholarship
  - Page County Community Scholarship
  - Rappahannock County Scholarship
  - Shenandoah County Scholarship

The end of the year is upon us. If you are interested in contributing to the LFCC Educational Foundation this calendar year, please print a contribution form from the Foundation Web page: http://www.lfcc.edu/foundation/forms.html. All contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible, and contributions postmarked by Dec. 31, 2005, will count toward the 2005 tax year. Thank you!

Local business, industry and government leaders assist President John J. “Ski” Sygielski with breaking ground on Sept. 21 for the new Science and Health Professions Building.

Photo by Aaron Riddle

Learn more about Lord Fairfax Community College at www.lfcc.edu!

For more information about contributing to the LFCC Educational Foundation or becoming involved in any of the above-mentioned initiatives, please contact Linnie Carter at larcer@lfcc.edu or (540) 868-4077. If you would like to receive periodic updates about LFCC via e-mail or if you have a change in your contact information, please send an e-mail message to connect@lfcc.edu.

Photo by Aaron Riddle

Students involved in the College’s English Language Academy gain confidence in their English communication skills through the various services available.

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