The Monford D. and Lucy L. Custer Foundation has contributed $30,000 to the LFCC Educational Foundation to establish the Monford D. and Lucy L. Custer Nursing Scholarship Fund to benefit nursing students at LFCC. Last fall, 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 in Winchester to raise money for the scholarship. Approximately 90 guests attended the event and contributed $9,450 to the scholarship fund. With these contributions, the Custer Nursing Scholarship Fund totals $39,450.

The following questions were answered by Linda Russell, daughter of Monford and Lucy Custer, who has spent 30 years working in nursing, surgery, and sonar in Winchester.

**What caused you and your family to establish this scholarship fund and host a fundraising event?**

The need for scholarships and the ability to help nursing students was brought to my attention by Ann Wiltshire [an LFCC Educational Foundation Board member] a year or so ago. As a result, our family started the Custer Nursing Scholarship. We decided to host a fundraising event because all of my siblings happened to be here at the same time, and we felt we could enhance our scholarship by having a party. Another factor was that if others could see how easy it is to start a scholarship in honor or in memory of a loved one, perhaps more scholarships would be established at LFCC.

**Who does the scholarship honor and why?**

We established the scholarship in memory of my parents, because they were both prominent, philanthropic individuals who were well loved by many, many people in Winchester and across the country. While serving as a member of the Winchester Memorial Hospital medical staff, my father was instrumental in planning and establishing the Winchester Surgical Clinic. He also assisted in establishing the Free Medical Clinic in Winchester and along with my mother, Lucy, helped renovate the John Kerr School building and establish the Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing at Shenandoah University. We will never know all of the people they quietly helped during their lives.

**Why is LFCC important to the community?**

Winchester and the surrounding areas are so lucky to have LFCC. Many of the traditional and nontraditional students would not have the ability to receive a quality education if it were not for LFCC. In addition, the College resources available to the community are phenomenal and utilized by many who are looking for ways and means to continue mind enrichment.
Teaching and Learning

LFCC is committed to (1) meeting the need 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.

- LFCC’s Physics Program was one of 10 two-year college physics programs profiled in a case study focusing on “best practices” initiatives. The SPIN-UP project (Strategic Programs for Innovations in Undergraduate Physics) was conducted by the National Task Force for Undergraduate Physics by leaders within the two-year college physics community.

- Enrollment in LFCC’s Dual Enrollment Program reached 1,480 headcount students for fall 2005, an increase of 24 percent from the previous year. These students collectively earned over 6,500 credits this past fall, with the three top courses being College Composition I, United States History I and Statistics. One of the major advantages of the program is that students earn college credit while still in high school, thus saving them time and money.

- LFCC is leading the efforts of a National Science Foundation grant in collaboration with Northern Virginia Community College and individuals from area school divisions who represent career and technical education. Some of the goals include the creation of information technology pathways that start in the high school and bridge to community college and four-year institutions; the development of problem-based learning activities that relate to national skill standards; and development of a business and industry council.

- This spring, the Office of Instructional Technology will provide training, resources, services, and guidance for faculty to ensure successful delivery of distance and hybrid (half distance, half classroom) courses and programs. Among other things, support efforts will include instructional design consultation; assistance in the selection of media and delivery methods; and strategies for student interaction.

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 is working with College Central Network to provide the community—local employers, area residents, LFCC students and alumni—with online career services through College Central, an online career services office management system. These career services are being funded through a $30,000 Tech Prep grant recently awarded to LFCC from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) to expand work-based learning experiences.

- Students Joseph Pitsonharger, a Toms Brook, Va. resident, and Angela Zyliks-Stout, an Amisville, Va. resident, were honored as student showcase recipients for their outstanding contributions to LFCC and the community at the VCCS Student Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach in November 2005.

Partnerships and Outreach

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

- Command Spanish™, which provides instruction in Spanish phrases, questions and commands needed for specific purposes and professions, was offered in January and February to the Child-Parent Center (a partner agency of Our Health in Winchester), City of Winchester, Fauquier County Department of Social Services, Fauquier Public Schools, the Shelter for Abused Women in Winchester and the Winchester Fire and Rescue Department. Funded through grant money and offered through the Office of Workforce Services and Continuing Education, the classes educated approximately 200 non-Spanish speaking individuals in an effort to help them communicate with the expanding Hispanic community.

- This spring, the Office of Workforce Services and Continuing Education began offering new courses in viticulture (vineyard management) and enology (wine making), customer service and leadership training, project management and ammonia refrigeration.

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.

- Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2005, the LFCC Educational Foundation raised $511,532.27 from 271 donors.

- The Foundation received the following grants between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2005:
  - $10,000 from the American Woodmark Foundation Inc. in support of a scholarship endowment
  - $150,000 from an anonymous donor in support of a scholarship endowment
  - $2,500 from the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation in support of scholarships for Rappahannock County residents
  - $5,000 from the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association in support of Command Spanish for the construction industry
  - $30,000 from the Winchester Medical Center for scholarships for nursing students

- William A. Hazel, the founder of William A. Hazel Inc., a total site development contractor, company headquartered in Chantilly, Va., donated $125,000 to the LFCC Educational Foundation. The contribution will be used to establish the William A. Hazel Family Endowed Scholarship, which will benefit LFCC students living in Fauquier County.

- The LFCC Educational Foundation awarded scholarships totaling $22,800 to 31 worthy LFCC students to help defray the costs of tuition, fees and books for the spring 2006 semester.

- The Foundation has a new Web page: http://www.lfcc.edu/foundation. The new Web page includes frequently-asked questions about the Foundation; contribution forms; opportunities to donate to and invest in the College; and profiles of a donor, student and alumnus. For suggestions on how to improve the Web page, please contact Linnie Carter at lcarterr@lfcc.edu or (540) 866-4077.

- A group of ambassadors from LFCC visited the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond in January and February. The ambassadors included LFCC President John J. “Ski” Sygielski and students. The visits were an opportunity for the students to learn more about Virginia’s legislative process, thank the elected officials who support higher education and ask for support for LFCC and VCCS initiatives (see photograph at left).

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