



Legacy Gala

*A night to
remember*

The evening of Saturday, November 2 was a night to remember as Highland Community College celebrated its rich history at the Wagner House in Freeport. "The inaugural Legacy Gala was about recognizing individual alumni and corporate partners that demonstrated a shared responsibility in transforming the lives of the students through accessible, affordable, and rigorous learning experiences," said Jeff Reinke, Executive Director of the Highland Foundation. The Gala carried on the same tradition of the previously held Shindigs to bring together members of the community and HCC Corporate Sponsors to raise money for the greatest needs of the College. A silent auction raised over \$33,000 and the \$5,000 in Five Minutes challenge funded the student emergency H.O.P.E. fund. The Royal Scots and HCC Jazz Ensemble entertained a sold out crowd of over 250 guests.

The inaugural **HCC Legacy Lifetime Achievement award** was presented to Delbert Scheider, one of the founders of Highland Community College. In 1961, Scheider was one of 27 people who ran for election to the board of Freeport Community College, now Highland Community College. He was involved in the initial "Acres for Education" campaign to raise \$150,000 for the land on which the college now stands.

After serving 12 years on the original College Board of Trustees, including a term as Board Chair, Scheider chose to join the Highland Foundation Board, and has been a member ever since.

He is also a WWII veteran, serving in the US Navy, a graduate of Iowa State University and a recipient of an honorary degree from Highland in 2014.



Scheider said he is humbled by the award. "I saw the need in this area, and many of us worked together. I have remained active all these years, and looking back I know we have come a long way, mostly due to public support. It is about meeting the needs of the students. I look back on my life experiences with personal satisfaction in having been part of an institution that has contributed immensely to the lives of people and the economy of northwestern Illinois."

Jeff Reinke said "Del's impact on Highland Community College has been transformational—from when he was first elected to the College Board in 1961 to today where he still serves as HCC Foundation Board member. He was the unanimous choice for the first-ever Legacy Gala Lifetime Achievement Award. Because of Del's vision of what Highland could be and his commitment to education within our district, the award will forever be named the **"Delbert Scheider Lifetime Achievement Award."**

Next HCC Legacy Gala
May 1, 2021



Distinguished Alumni of 2019



The HCC Foundation hosted the 25th Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony this past fall at the Freeport Club, honoring six community members who have demonstrated community leadership, professional achievement, and belief in the mission of Highland Community College.



Jolene Bohnsack

earned an Associate degree in Business Administration from Highland, then

continued her education through the Graduate School of Banking and other professional development opportunities, leading to her current position as Senior Vice president of Forrester State Bank. Jolene is very active in her community serving on the Highland Community College Foundation. In the past, she served on the Allocation committee for United Way of Northwest Illinois, Warren Chamber of Commerce, and the Sunny Day Preschool Board



Curtis Derrer

graduated from Highland with an Associate of Science degree followed by a Bachelor's degree

in Agriculture from UW-Platteville, then graduated from the Midwest School for Community Bankers and the UW-Madison Graduate School of Banking. He is President/CEO of the Lena State Bank and serves on the bank's board of directors. He also actively farms in the Lanark/Shannon area and is a member of the Lena Economic Development Committee, Carroll County Farm Bureau, and FFA Alumni Association



Joseph Mattingley

graduated from HCC in 1997 followed by a Bachelor of Science degree

in Business Administration from Columbia College. Joe is the Northwest Illinois Market President for Illinois Bank & Trust. He also serves as a Director on Dairyland Power Cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy, and Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative, and on the Government Affairs Committee of the American Public Gas Association.



Shary Meinert's

Associate degree in Business Administration from Highland has served her well in her 44-year

Radio career under the on-air name Shary Gibson on WFRL AM and K92 WFPS port. FM. Each year, along with Highland Community College, Shary helps coordinate the Festival of Giving 12-hour radio-thon toy drive and fundraiser for the Salvation Army. She is a past board member of Big Brother Big Sisters, Member of the American Business Women's Association, and is an active member of the local chapter of Therapy Dogs International.



Jim Phillips

Jim earned his Associate of Arts degree from Highland, then a bachelor's and

a master's degree in History from Western Illinois University. Beginning his career at Highland as an advisor to students, he transitioned to a fulltime instructor in history and political science, and now is Dean of the Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts Division. He is a co-facilitator of the Leadership Institute and has also served on other community groups, including Forrester's Planning Commission and Freeport's Credit Union.



Chris Schneiderman

attended Highland Community College from 1996 through 1998 and went on to earn a Bachelor of

Science degree in Finance from U of I. He is Executive Vice President of State Bank, Freeport, and leads their business services team. Chris acts as a mentor for young people in the financial industry. He also mentors interns from Freeport High School's work study program and the Foresight Financial Group's summer internship program. He serves on the boards of the Senior Resource Center, the Greater Freeport Partnership, and the Freeport Noon Rotary Club.

2019 Donations to Highland Community College provided support to:

Ag Greenhouse
and Lab
Renovation:
\$150,000

Top Scholars
Program
\$95,000

High School
Servant
Leadership
Program
\$60,000

Use of Force
Simulator
\$15,000

Mass
Communications
Equipment
\$15,000

Cosmetology
Pedicle Chairs
\$7,300

Jo Daviess and
Stephenson
County
Leadership
programs
\$10,000

HOPE Student
Emergency Fund
\$5,000

Donations keep Highland Community College Growing in Exciting New Ways

A newly renovated **Ag lab** and a brand new **Ag greenhouse** are providing Highland students with new learning opportunities in animal science, animal health and nutrition, crop science, soil science and fertility and horticulture.

Groundbreaking for the greenhouse was on June 19, 2019, with the participation of lead donor Stephen S. Switzer. The completed building will be dedicated in memory of Stephen and Dorleen's son *Joel I. Switzer*.

Executive Director Jeff Reinke says "Our HCC Agriculture Department has been very fortunate to have the support of both companies and individuals over the past few years. We are so grateful to our donors for these gifts which will enhance our Ag program tremendously.

We have raised over \$420,000 to provide the program greenhouse, ag lab, a spray applicator simulator, a mapping drone, and PH testers. Reaching our \$768,000 goal will allow us to fund additional agriculture needs including a planter with precision technology, a pole shed, and a tractor."

Agriculture Partners

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State Bank
Stephenson Farm Bureau
Stephenson Service Co.
Steve & Dorleen Switzer
Vita Plus



"In Memory of our son
Joel S. Switzer."
Stephen A. & Dorleen A. Switzer





Criminal Justice Program Use of Force Simulator

Funded by a Highland Community College Foundation gift, a new, state-of-the-art *Use of Force Simulator*, is enhancing the Highland Criminal Justice program with hands-on learning opportunities in ethics, law, law enforcement, communication, and critical thinking. These important skills will ensure HCC students are prepared for rewarding careers with local, county, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, correctional institutions, courtrooms, and other criminal justice agencies. Jennifer Roser, Criminal Justice instructor says "Students have started utilizing the equipment and are practicing verbal communication and critical thinking skills. Students are learning how quickly situations can escalate and potentially become dangerous. As a class, we evaluate the scenarios and discuss if situations can be handled differently."

**Save
the
Date:**

**Monday,
June 1,
2020**

**Highland
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24th
Annual
Leadership
Golf
Outing**

Thank you to our 2019 Corporate Partners



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German American State Bank

Hughes Resources



Corporate partnerships provide HCC students access to current and emerging educational opportunities as well as essential scholarship support. The relationships companies build with HCC students, faculty, and staff and with other corporate partners can effectively grow brand presence and lead to new corporate opportunities.

Hulsebus-Gehlsen Chiropractic

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The Annual Highland Community College Foundation Scholarship Ceremony



Over 300 people came together on Sunday, October 6, 2019 to celebrate our 2019-2020 scholarship recipients. Jeff Reinke, Executive Director, remarked "it is gratifying to see that all of these recipients have big plans in such a wide variety of majors."

Highland Community College holds the distinction of being the oldest community college foundation in the state of Illinois, and since 1963 we have given Highland Students more than **\$8.5 million in scholarships.**



In presenting the **Dr. and Mrs. Spencer K. Phillips Scholarship**, Mrs. Marjorie Phillips spoke for many in the room when she said "This just means the world to me. These students have goals and I hope this helps them achieve those goals. *This is for their future.*"

The Foundation awarded **\$444,643 in scholarships** assisting more than **500 Highland students**, and we are happy to announce that generous donors have created several **new scholarships** this year.

Freeport Rural Fire Department decided to honor four volunteer firefighters that died within one year by creating a scholarship for students from their district who are attending Highland.

Alumna **Cristina Lambert**, inspired by the progress she sees at Highland, created the **Cristina Lambert/ Wagner House Scholarship** to "pay it forward" to help those who are in a position similar to hers back in 1978, when someone provided the financial support that made it possible for her to attend Highland. This scholarship will be featured in a spring matching gift appeal to all HCC alumni, and will be awarded to a student from the HCC district with first preference for a business major.

As a member of Highland's first graduating class in 1964 (when it was called Freeport Community College) and a Distinguished Alumnus in 2012, **Jim Frisbie** believed that Highland set him on his career path to becoming a teacher in the Dakota School System for 33 years. To provide future students with the opportunity he so valued, Jim created the **Jim Frisbie Memorial Scholarship** as a permanent endowment from his estate.

Long-time local famers **Irvin & Dorothy Seuring** knew that they wanted to leave a legacy in education, creating an endowment from their estate to establish a new scholarship for students pursuing any field of study at Highland.





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Dan Dick Named HCC Foundation Major Gift Officer

The Foundation is pleased to announce that Dan Dick has joined our team as a Major Gift Officer. Dan's first day was November 4, and already he is focusing on creating long-term, sustainable relationships with community members and area corporations to secure significant investments for Highland Community College (HCC).

Dan is a graduate of HCC and completed his bachelor degree at Carthage College. He also holds a master's degree from Northern Illinois University, and is currently a second year doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He returns to serve the Foundation after working professionally at the School of Human Ecology at UW-Madison.

Dan's experience ranges from annual fund development and implementation to securing gifts for the institutions he has served. He has shared that he most looks forward to returning with his wife and daughter to a community he cares for deeply. Please join us in welcoming Dan to the Highland Community College Foundation Team.

