

HISTORY OF COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENDOWMENT

The Colby Community College Endowment Association was chartered under the laws of the State of Kansas on September 25, 1964 as a non-profit educational corporation to encourage, receive and administer gifts and bequests for the benefit of Colby Community College, its students and its staff. This action established an organization, which has been invaluable to the growth and development of Colby Community College.

The original incorporators included Leon E. Roulier, Jesse J. Evans and Donald E. Phillips. On November 17, 1964, these incorporators met to adopt by-laws and elect six Trustees. The six Trustees elected were J. H. Nickel, Charles H. Schiefen, Thomas A. Pratt and the original three previously mentioned. At the first meeting of the Endowment Association, J. H. Nickel was named Resident-Agent of the Corporation at 750 West Third Street, which was approved as the official place of business.

The founders began to operate an Endowment Association, which was not only the first organized in the state of Kansas for a public two-year college, but also was one that has been so successful that it has been copied by many other Kansas community colleges.

In a letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated March 8, 1965, the Endowment Association was granted a 501c(3) tax-exempt status. This allowed that all gifts, legacies, bequests or any other donations given to the Endowment Association would be deductible by the donor. This authorization was most essential to the success of the organization.

The first Annual Meeting of the Colby Community College Endowment Association was held on October 19, 1965 in the Colby Community Building. Jesse J. Evans was elected President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Donald E. Phillips was named Vice-president, and Nickel and Roulier retained the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

In 1968, the Association advanced almost \$87,000 to three contractors for the construction of a residence hall, later named Living Center North, on campus to house 80 students. In the spring of 1969, the Endowment Association agreed to construct a classroom building on a plot of ground leased to them by the College. The Ferguson family contributed some \$64,000 to aid in constructing this facility, and at its dedication it was named Ferguson Hall. The first phase of construction was completed in time for classes of the 1969 fall semester. The Licensed Practical Nursing and Animal Hospital Technology programs had been approved and were underway. The fall enrollment exceeded the 550 originally designated as capacity for the College. Dr. Richard Mosier, President of Colby Community College, cited the need for 15 additional faculty members for the upcoming academic year.

Fund-raising efforts were an important part of the Colby Community College Endowment Association activities from the beginning. Pancake feeds, airplane rides, dinner theaters and benefit dances were held to supplement private gifts, bequests and contributions.

Association assets increased from \$4,504 in 1964 to \$57,970 in 1969. Of these funds, \$12,488 was designated for student scholarships, and \$11,273 had been awarded by 1969.

The next five years, 1970 to 1975, were marked by building, leasing, borrowing and development activities on and around the College campus. The Endowment Association continued to solicit contributions and support for the College. As the College's reputation for excellence grew, funding from the Endowment Association for scholarships and facilities was necessary to keep pace with the increased enrollment.

In 1972, the Lauterbach Family donated their family home to the Endowment Association together with

funds for maintenance. The property sold in 1974, and the proceeds were placed in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center Building Fund.

The Endowment Association, together with Albert and Helen Frahm and Lester and Clara Barrett, provided funds for the construction of the Animal Hospital Technology and Agricultural Building in 1972. In 1973, the Association designated funds to improve the outdoor athletic facilities and develop a baseball complex.

On the tenth anniversary of the Endowment Association in November 1974, the Association celebrated attaining assets of approximately \$350,000. In addition, more than \$400,000 had been pledged to the construction of the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

For the 10 years of leadership by Presidents Jesse Evans, Don Phillips, Tom Pratt, Robert Lewis and Albert Frahm, from 1964 to 1974, the Colby Community College Endowment Association had grown in assets and in service to the College. The next decade, 1974 to 1984, saw an increase in contributions to Colby Community College by the Endowment Association, not only financial but also in the depth and breadth of its activities.

Successful fund-raising events were always a major goal of the Endowment Association. The first benefit Party Auction-Dinner was held in the spring of 1972 and netted the Association some \$1,502.54. In 1973, the Endowment Association established a committee to develop guidelines for accepting items for the Auction. Proceeds doubled in 1974, and the Endowment Association's Party Auction developed into one of its major sources of income and an annual northwest Kansas tradition.

By 1976, the Endowment Association had established some 12 general scholarship categories and nine special awards with more than 130 individual student recipients. Assets totaled \$121,222.63, including 43 acres of farmland plus \$620,419 in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center Fund. Because of the tremendous growth in the Endowment Association, the Board of Trustees amended their By-laws to include the appointment of an Executive Director. The new Director, Alfred Lowenthal, had served as voluntary co-chairperson of the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center fund-raising effort for three years. Although the position was initially part-time, by necessity it became full-time in only a few years.

The second decade of the existence of the Endowment Association had gotten off to a good start. The Colby Community College Farm was established as a result of acreage donated by Helen Frahm and materials for construction of the barn donated by Gifford-Hill, Stephens Construction and Ken Frahm.

Dedication of the \$750,000 Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center was conducted on September 5, 1976. This event culminated the efforts of several volunteers in soliciting donations from residents in northwest Kansas for a fine arts facility.

Annual meetings of the Endowment Association were conducted routinely in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. In 1978, the Annual Meeting Minutes reported the establishment of \$62,000 in new endowed scholarships. More than 140 Colby Community College students received financial aid from the Association that year.

The decade of the 1980's ushered in a new set of unique challenges for both Colby Community College and the Endowment Association. The decline of high school seniors not only in northwest Kansas, but also statewide, impacted enrollment at Colby Community College. Population decline was coupled with increasing operational and energy costs. Throughout this period, the Endowment Association's finances were delicately balanced.

Although the early 1980's did present a number of challenges, the Endowment Association could point to

a number of significant achievements. Under the leadership of presidents Jack Fitzsimmons, Norm Wilks and Forrest May, the large addition to the Agriculture Building for the Animal Hospital Tech Program was completed. In 1983, a 5,000 square foot annex to the H. F. Davis Memorial Building was designed and erected. This allowed for the enlargement of floor space for library purposes, the expansion of the Comprehensive Learning Center and the addition of a classroom for the Business program and a room for the Computer Lab.

Perhaps the most significant event during the early 1980's was the \$250,000 gift to Colby Community College from Olive Garvey. With the cooperation of the Garvey family, the decision was made to endow \$150,000 of this gift to insure long-term benefits to the College and use \$100,000 of this money to build an addition to the College library to provide much needed space. This was a truly significant contribution to the institution. Al Lowenthal should be recognized for his efforts in the planning, financing and construction of this very necessary addition. It provided an immediate and positive impact on the instructional program.

Moving into its third decade of service, Colby Community College served over 2,200 students. Over the next eight years, enrollment increased by over 50 percent. With over 1,100 on-campus students crowded on a campus built to accommodate half that number, Colby Community College's potential for growth was limited. Since the era of enrollment growth, which began in 1986, Colby Community College constructed only one small classroom building in 1991, which was designated for the health science programs. To successfully move into the third decade of service, investment in the College's physical plant was the top priority.

The 1993-1994 school year was indeed a time of continued prosperity. Enrollment records were broken, the physical therapist assistant program nearly doubled in size, allowing more students the opportunity to train in this growing career field. Then on October 15, 1993, Colby Community College dedicated the Beatrice Davis Clock Tower, which serves as a memorial to one of the College's finest supporters. This campus landmark is a gift from Charles Davis as a memorial to his mother. The three-sided Kansas limestone and granite structure stands 52 and one-half feet high, overlooking the entire campus. Each side of the tower features an illuminated clock face.

The year 1994 brought about the 30th Anniversary of the College and Endowment Association. At the Annual Meeting of the Colby Community College Endowment Association on November 8, 1994, President George Elliott announced the Association had received a gift from the Marshal Waltz Estate of \$175,000. Mr. Waltz and his wife, Mamie, were owner-operators of the Blakesley Hotel. When his wife's health began to fail in the late 1970's, he sold the hotel and retired to care for Mamie, who passed away in April 1983. After her death, Mr. Waltz moved to the Cooper Building, where he resided until his death.

In July 1995, the Endowment Association received the first of a settlement from the Floyd Bedker Estate, which resulted in a final settlement in June of 1996 of over \$430,000. Floyd Bedker, a northwest Kansas farmer and rancher known for his purebred Black Angus cattle herd and his strong commitment to conservation practices, owned ranches in Rooks and Wallace counties.

The major fundraisers of the Endowment Association, including the Phone-A-Thon and the Party Auction, continued throughout the years. The 1996-1997 year was believed to be one of the best years ever for fundraising events. The Phone-A-Thon grossed approximately \$39,197 with net proceeds of \$32,902. The Party Auction proceeds grossed approximately \$40,052.98 with a net profit of \$34,013.96. These years included restructuring of the Association with the addition of an Administrative Assistant. A Special Growth Committee was also formed with the purpose of working on enrichment of the organization. At the Annual Meeting held on April 15, 1997, it was announced that Colby Community College Endowment Association assets had grown to \$1.5 million dollars. The Endowment Association was able to give \$100,000 toward scholarships during the 1996-97 school year. Major contributions

during this time included settlements from the estates of Viva G. Stimits in February 1997 and Elizabeth Micek in July 1997.

Throughout the 1990's, enrollment at Colby Community College had been growing, creating an urgent need for additional classroom space. An addition to the NWKS Cultural Arts Center allowed the Music and Drama departments to be housed there. The Bedker Memorial Complex, which houses the Behavioral Sciences and Business classrooms, was built south of the Student Union. During the 1997-1998 school year, the Endowment Association played an important role in each of these additions, providing a total of \$50,000 for furnishings. This included a \$10,000 gift in honor of Colby Community College supporter Robert Lewis. Dedication of the buildings took place in October 1997.

Scholarship awards for the 1997-1998 school year totaled \$110,000. The number of Presidential Scholarships remained at 22, with each student receiving \$1,350 per year, which was an increase from \$1,200 per year in previous years. Academic Scholarships remained at ten, with each student receiving \$750 per year. The Association Handbook and By-Laws were revised in April 1998 to continue the tradition of addressing new challenges and continued growth.

Permanent funding for the Mosier student award and the Tangeman faculty award was approved during the 1998-1999 year. These awards are presented at Commencement in the spring. With the transfer from the College of the Eddy Estate funds, 35 to 50 sophomore scholarships were established. The awards range from \$350 to 500. These scholarships are essential for the retention of sophomore students. With net proceeds of \$37,000, the 1998 Phone-A-Thon had its most successful year to date. For 35 years, students and others in northwest Kansas have been touched by the influence of Colby Community College. The current support would indicate that the influence has been a very positive one.

The appearance of the campus was enhanced in the fall of 1999 with the addition of a one-quarter scale model of the Ad Astra Statue of that which is on top of the state Capitol building dome in Topeka. The five and one-half foot Kansa Indian statue is shooting an arrow to the stars, illustrating the Kansas motto. The statue was placed in the center of the circle drive in front of the H.F. Davis Library. Charles Davis donated funds for the statue, and the Endowment Association funded the base. The statue dedication was held September 28, 1999.

During the fall of 1999, the Endowment Association received its largest single contribution to date. Stanley Carr, 83, was a lifelong resident of Thomas County. The wheat and cattle farmer died in December 1998. The Colby Community College Endowment Association received a bequest of \$1,150,000 from the Carr estate to be endowed, and the proceeds used for scholarships. The contribution pushed the Colby Community College Endowment Association assets to \$3,000,000. This generous bequest will fund between 35 and 50 scholarships every year. As a result, the Colby Community College Endowment Association offered \$150,000 in endowed scholarships for the 2000-2001 school year. In addition, the Eddy Sophomore Scholarships of \$17,500 and a number of unendowed scholarships were awarded.

The fall of 1999 also brought another record year for the Phone-A-Thon, with net proceeds of over \$43,000. The 2000 Party Auction was also extremely successful, with the addition of \$500 in attendance prizes and the availability of corporate tables. The Auction net was almost \$30,000, with many people attending for the first time.

Several new unendowed scholarships were added in 2001. The two largest are the \$1,000 Office Works Scholarship for a business student and the \$3,000 Lefmann-Price Scholarships for sophomore, re-entry students. The Lefmann-Price Scholarships honor Harold Lefmann, a long-time Colby educator and Colby Community College employee.

In 2003 the Foundation was asked by the college to back a capital campaign to build a student

activity/wellness center with a start from a \$250,000 Federal grant for bricks and mortar. The Foundation solicited the help of the Hartsook Company to help with the campaign. This campaign was abandoned by the College in the spring of 2007 after being voted down in the April election. The Foundation separated from the Hartsook Company losing approximately \$400,000 on the endeavor. Although two of the major gifts received (totaling \$375K) from the campaign were placed into the Nursing Professorship fund to be used as a matching fund with the KBOR to provide assistance with the Nursing instructor salaries. On December 29, 2009 area farmer Maxine Neville left the Foundation the largest gift received to date, of \$1.4M. This fund is to be invested and maintained to award twenty nursing scholarships annually. These funds came in cash, investments, and land. With the addition of these monies the Foundation passed the 5M dollar mark.

Another area resident and farmer, Patricia Embree left a large portion (1M) of her trust to Colby Community College Endowment Foundation in the fall of 2011 to be used for CCC Faculty enrichment.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of the major responsibilities of the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation is the administration of over 175 individual scholarship funds. Alumni, friends, businesses and corporations have established scholarship funds for a variety of reasons. A majority of the funds are permanently endowed scholarships. The principal remains intact and invested at all times. All contributions increase the principal balance, and scholarships are awarded from the interest earned on the principal investment. To establish an endowed scholarship, a minimum of \$1,000 is required within one year. Interest earned will be re-endowed in the scholarship until the endowed amount reaches \$2,000. At that time, the scholarship will be awarded from the interest earned.

If a fund has less than or does not meet the preferred \$1,000 minimum, it may still be endowed by investing the donations with the Colby Community College Endowment Scholarship Fund in honor or memory of an individual, organization or event. The earnings from this fund provide scholarships for the Colby Community College Scholarship Program, which is funded by the Endowment Association.

Another type of scholarship fund is a restricted scholarship fund. With this fund, the contributions are awarded as a scholarship. The donor may contribute and offer an immediate scholarship award. A restricted fund is not considered a permanent fund.

Selection of the scholarship recipients can be made by the Colby Community College Endowment Association or by a committee within a particular area of study. A committee must make the selection, not an individual. Each scholarship fund has specific eligibility criteria to guide the selection committees in the award process.