

Why I Give: Mrs. Phyllis Rogers

Phyllis Rogers recalls when DACC first came onto her radar screen. “I’d read in the paper that DACC needed tutors so I decided to volunteer.”

From that point forward, as Rick said to Louis in *Casablanca*, this became “the beginning of a beautiful friendship.”

Besides the tutoring, Phyllis Rogers also got to know DACC as an area resident and as a master teacher in District 118 for nearly 40 years. Her career included 30 years teaching fourth and fifth grades at Danville’s Northeast School, followed by eight years at the East Park School. When retired, she served as a permanent substitute for an additional two years. Besides volunteering at DACC, Phyllis has provided her expertise in teaching reading and writing to a wide range of international adults and children.

Phyllis started her scholarship fund as a tribute to her late husband Gary, who was also a teacher, a school administrator, and school-board member. She says, “We saw so many talented students who needed to have an opportunity to go to college. Our scholarship support to DACC gives

them that opportunity. We wanted to see students prosper and hopefully be able to make a living in Danville.”

The Rogers’ fund awards five scholarships annually to students pursuing a career in teaching. Beginning this year, Phyllis intends to expand eligibility to include students studying engineering.

Lately, selecting students for DACC scholarships has been a “family affair,” with her grandchildren Christian, Chance, and Kate assisting her. She says, “We sit together at a table and pass out the applications. My grandchildren and I do our own scoring, independently, and then we put it all together.”

Phyllis says she has found that “helping a student or several students earn a degree at DACC is extremely rewarding.” As evidence of the high value she places on a DACC education, she helped convince her great nephews and niece—Aidan, Gavin, and Ella—to attend DACC.

Phyllis points out that scholarships need to support more than just tuition. “Comparatively speaking, attending DACC is somewhat inexpensive. However, there are textbooks and fees which must be paid, so students face a number of expenses that scholarships alone don’t normally address.”

As a retired teacher, Phyllis considers one of the best perks of giving is getting to read “thank-you” letters from students. “Over the years, I’ve received the most beautiful letters from our scholarship students. The letters mean so much to me and to other donors I know. The process also encourages the students to appreciate the help they’re receiving.”

When asked whether the English teacher in her wants to grade the letters for grammar and punctuation, she smiles and says, “They’re usually very well written. Only a few of them contain errors. But I do think that since they’re college students, and they’re receiving a scholarship to support their academic success, they ought to know how to write well.”

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DACC Higher Learning Center — Hoopeston

Honors Dr. Jacobs

DACC founding President Mary Miller's portrait hangs prominently outside the entrance to the president's office.

DACC President Stephen Nacco says, "Every morning, Mary says three things to me: 'Protect my college, serve the community, and don't spend any money.'"

Another legendary former DACC president has a portrait in a different place of honor, this at the Hoopeston Learning Center.

During the DACC Board of Trustees' Oct. 26 meeting, the College unveiled a portrait of President emerita Alice

Marie Jacobs for display in Hoopeston's student commons. "Dr. Jacobs was instrumental in the establishment of that center," President Nacco said. "Because of that center, we were able to be responsive to a need on the north end of the County."

The idea for the Hoopeston Learning Center surfaced in 2008 when Dr. Jacobs met with Hoopeston leaders who told her they were interested in a satellite DACC location. By 2009, DACC's Board of Trustees' pledged

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First Farmers Bank & Trust Establish New Scholarship



First Farmers Bank & Trust established a new scholarship for students in an Agriculture program. The award is \$2,000 per academic year — \$1,000 each semester — and may be used for tuition, books, and fees.

The First Farmers branch in Hoopeston first contacted the DACC Foundation and expressed an interest in starting a new scholarship. After working with Foundation staff, it was determined that criteria would include those students with low to moderate income, as defined by Pell Grant eligibility, who are pursuing a degree in Agriculture. Secondary consideration will be given

to those in Business majors if no qualified Ag applicant can be found.

“We are so grateful to First Farmers Bank & Trust for establishing a scholarship to help DACC students realize their educational dreams,” said DACC Foundation Executive Director Tracy

Wahlfeldt. “They are another shining example of the Hoopeston area creating opportunities for area students.”



Arconic Funds New CNC Milling Equipment

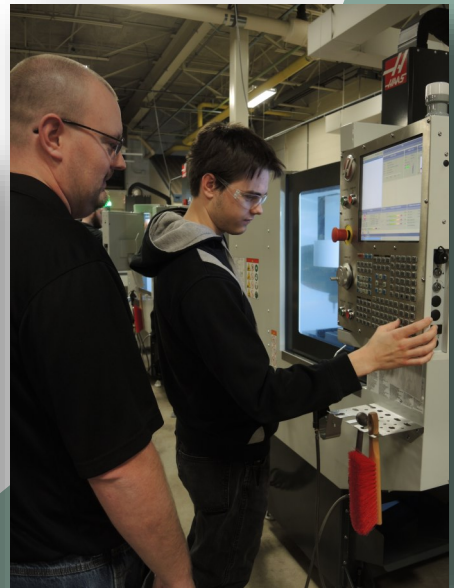
Arconic’s Julie Peelman (third from the right) visited DACC on Feb. 14 to see the College’s three new Computer Numerical Control or CNC machines in action.

Students demonstrated metal work that included making dice for Ms. Peelman

to keep. Joining Ms. Peelman behind the \$20,000 Big Check is Foundation Executive Director Tracy Wahlfeldt, who wrote the grant application to Arconic.

Shown here along with the students is Professor Todd Flessner (right) who

says that the new machines are so sophisticated that they notify him of their working status via an app on his smartphone.



Jacobs — Hoopeston, cont'd

their support.

The Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center donated the 4,900-square-foot building to the College. From 2012-13, the College renovated in the facility. Work included the construction of five classrooms and a student commons.

Funding the new Center came from a variety of sources, including \$206,000 from the Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation and \$30,000 from the Hoopeston City Council.

Classes began in September 2013 at

the renovated facility, which is located at 847 E. Orange St.

Bill Nicholls, a community leader in Hoopeston and a member of the DACC Foundation Board, broached the idea of the portrait this past spring. "Dr. Jacobs has done so much good for Hoopeston with the development of the center. Having her picture displayed inside is a fitting way to pay tribute to her contributions."

With Dr. Jacobs' portrait now on permanent display in the Hoopeston

Learning Center, we were wondering what this portrait was saying to President Nacco.

"Why talk to a portrait when I'm fortunate enough to have Dr. Jacobs herself to talk to about DACC?"

As for the message: "We both say that the Hoopeston Learning Center plays a key role in the revitalization of the community and that under the strong leadership of Director Karla Coon, the Center needs to keep striving to serve the needs of City residents and the County's northern region."



Remembering Barbara Todd

On Oct. 5, DACC planted a tree on the west side of the Mary Miller Complex as a memorial to former DACC employee and women's equality pioneer Barb Todd. Mounted at the base of the black gum tree is a plaque

recognizing Barb, who joined DACC in 1966 and became a full-time instructor a year later. She founded the women's athletic program, and in 2009 was inducted into the DACC Athletic Hall of Fame. A

scholarship donor at DACC, Barb retired in 2015 after 49 years of service. The dedication took place on what would have been her 80th birthday.

DACC Foundation Honors Program — September 2017

Danville Area Community College Foundation’s annual Honors Program celebrates the achievements of scholarship recipients at DACC and the generosity of the donors who support them. Without the support of scholarship dollars, many students’ potential might remain untapped.

On Friday, September 22, 2017, the DACC Foundation celebrated awarding another record-breaking 575 scholarships totaling nearly \$730,000 during the annual Honors Program. More than 500 people gathered in

Mary Miller Gym to honor the motivation and dedication of scholarship recipients while thanking the generous donors who made the scholarships possible. It was a rewarding experience for everyone.

Scholarship dollars often make the difference between students achieving their dreams or putting them on hold indefinitely. These valuable scholarships assist students in reaching their education goals. Awards are given to both traditional and non-traditional students.

“Donors see the future in students they support with scholarship awards,” said Dr. Stephen Nacco, President of DACC. “They pay it forward every time they help a student reach for his or her dream.”

Anyone who wishes to receive additional information about sponsoring a scholarship is invited to contact Tracy Wahlfeldt, Executive Director of the DACC Foundation at twahlfeldt@dacc.edu or 217-443-8843.



Dr. Wendy Brown Earns Award from State Faculty Association

Dr. Wendy Brown, DACC Microbiology Professor, received the Leo Welch Educator of the Year Award from the Illinois Community College Faculty Association in November, 2017. The ICCFA Leo Welch Faculty of the Year Award is a peer-nominated honor presented annually to one Illinois Community College faculty member.

Professor Ryan Wyckoff, who nominated her for the Leo Welch award, co-teaches an innovative Service Learning course with Dr. Brown that combines a section of Biology with a section of Speech. At the November DACC Board of Trustees meeting, students in the unique course raved about both the curriculum opportunities and the two professors who teach it.

Wyckoff, along with DACC Board Chair Dave Harby and Executive Vice President of Instruction Dave Kietzmann, accompanied Dr.

Brown to the Award ceremony in Springfield.

In December, State Senator Scott Bennett visited DACC with a special delivery just in time for the holidays. Sen. Bennett sponsored a State of Illinois Senate Recognition for Dr. Brown. The Recognition document was read on the floor of the Senate to all Senators and placed in the Senate Record on November 17 as official Illinois Senate recognition of Dr. Brown's award.

According to his staff, "State Senator Scott Bennett is honored to represent the incredible constituents of the 52nd Senate District. He is always excited to hear about the wonderful work and service that so many of his constituents are doing out in the community. Illinois State Senate Recognitions provide a way for Senator Bennett to recognize and acknowledge constituents for their

outstanding work or service. Senate Recognitions are officially acknowledged by the 100th General Assembly of the State of Illinois." The Senator only sponsors a handful of this type of Senate Recognitions annually.

Dr. Brown started teaching at DACC in 2002. Since joining the faculty, she has been a leader of diversity, sustainability, accreditation, and teaching excellence initiatives on campus. Family Science Night, a biennial celebration that is one of the most popular community events on campus, was founded by Dr. Brown as a way to make science fun for children. The event brings more than 800 community members to campus.



DACC Foundation Scholarship Application Goes Online

DACC's new system for online scholarship applications owes its successful implementation to teamwork. As President Nacco says, "This is yet another example of how the College can move mountains when employees take a team approach in the spirit of 'One DACC.'"

For more than a year, Foundation Executive Director Tracy Wahlfeldt had been advocating for the installation of an online application system for DACC Foundation scholarships. The Foundation staff, including Gina Davis and Sandy Dreher, met with Finance Vice President Tammy Clark-Betancourt, Student Services Dean Stacy Ehmen, Financial Aid Director Janet Ingargiola, and Registrar Cindy Peck to identify the online program that would integrate seamlessly with the

College's Colleague system.

After identifying a company called Next Gen as the preferred software vendor, the team worked with Data System Director Kim Colwell, Computer Network Director Mark Barnes and Computer Administrator Brian Politt to bring the new online application system to fruition.

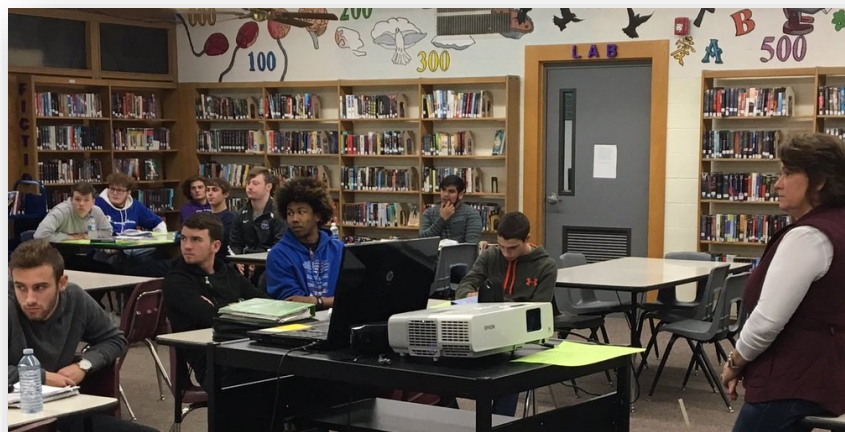
DACC's Board of Trustees decided to fund the project in order to provide the Foundation with greater flexibility for awarding scholarships and recruiting students to DACC. In addition, the new computer program supports Student Services' Dean Stacy Ehmen's recruitment by helping the College build up its database of high-school prospects.

As soon as the system went live on Jan. 2, Ms. Wahlfeldt began visiting

high schools throughout the District, including eastern Indiana, to encourage high school seniors to apply for scholarships. Throughout January and February, she visited more than a dozen schools. She also conducted workshops on campus with the DACC TRIO students.

The new online system was accessed through the DACC Foundation web page at www.dacc.edu/foundation. Once on the Foundation page, applicants could find the Application page.

"As with all new programs, there were growing pains," said Tracy Wahlfeldt, Executive Director of the Foundation, "but we still feel this is in the best interests of students as we move forward in providing resources to students."



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Greenhouse Megastore Donates Greenhouse For Sustainability Learning Farm

Activity will pick up at the DACC Sustainability Farm on Daisy Lane now that volunteers have erected a 20 foot by 24 foot High Tunnel Greenhouse donated by the Greenhouse Megastore.

The company sent Dave Langlois to lead about a dozen volunteers from the College's Horticulture, Culinary, and Green Building classes in constructing the building valued at \$2000. Instructors Amanda Krabbe, Brad Wheeler, and Greg Hansbraugh marshalled a small

group of students under Langlois' supervision. Construction occurred on a gray late-winter day, complete with a few snow flurries, but the volunteers persevered.

Greenhouse Megastore owner David George got the idea to make the donation after hearing Business and Technology Dean Bruce Rape speak about the activities at the Sustainability Farm at a Rotary meeting. George was impressed by the varied programs involved in the Sustainability Farm.

Horticulture Professor Amanda Krabbe says the Greenhouse will help extend the growing season at the Farm, allowing her to start plants earlier for use in the Farm to Table course and to offer a greater variety of produce later in the season at the Farmer's Market for students.

Programs involved in the Sustainability Learning Farm activities include Agriculture, Horticulture, Biology, Culinary, Green Construction, and Art.



Save the Date

- ◆ April 19, 2018:
An Evening of
Schubert Songs
Honoring
Julius W. Hegeler II,
7 pm, Bremer
Theater
- ◆ May 18, 2018:
Commencement
- ◆ September 21, 2018:
DACC Foundation
Honors Program