

# BEYOND

CHANGING EXPECTATIONS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

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## LSC FOUNDATION'S "SUMMER IN THE CITY" STARGALA 2009 SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30

Things are sure to heat up as the Lone Star College Foundation prepares to host *StarGala 2009 "Summer in the City,"* May 30 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott.

The Foundation's annual *StarGala* benefits student scholarships, academic programs and faculty projects. The event has steadily grown in popularity, attendance and revenue, last year raising nearly \$400,000.

"The Lone Star College Foundation *StarGala* is one of our most anticipated fund-raising events," said LSCS Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter.

"It gives the system an opportunity to thank and recognize some of our most valued partnerships and dedicated supporters," said Carpenter.

*StarGala 2009* will honor Elmer Beckendorf, John Wiesner and Land Tejas Companies for their continued support and dedication to LSCS and the local community.



Dorothy and Elmer Beckendorf

"Elmer Beckendorf is one of the most recognized and admired leaders in north Harris County, especially in the fields of education and healthcare," said Ray Laughter, LSCS vice chancellor for external affairs.

"He is considered by many to be a founding father of the Lone Star College System. Mr. Beckendorf is a man of great humility and class," said Laughter.



John Wiesner

"Mr. Wiesner was among the first proponents for bringing the community college to Montgomery County," said Penny Westerfeld, interim president LSC-Montgomery.

His tireless work throughout the community, bridging residents from all parts of the county, led to the successful election among Conroe ISD voters in 1991.

"John Wiesner is generous to a fault," said Nelda Blair, Woodlands Township chairman.

### Land Tejas

"Lone Star College-CyFair truly appreciates the generosity of Al Brende and Land Tejas Companies," said Dr. Bob Williams, interim president.

"Through the generous donation of \$352,000 from Land Tejas Companies, our associate degree nursing program at Lone Star College-CyFair has been able to increase the number of nursing faculty and nearly triple student admissions," said Cynthia Griffith dean of health and behavioral sciences.

"Each of our honorees is admired by so many in the community and we congratulate them on this recognition that is long overdue," said Laughter.

Tables, sponsorships and auction donations are now being accepted. Contact Judy Lux at the LSC Foundation at 832.813.6640 or e-mail [judy.lux@lonestar.edu](mailto:judy.lux@lonestar.edu) for more information.

## NEVER TOO LATE FOR THE RIGHT CAREER

At the age of 50, and with years invested into the marine technology industry, David Oustifine never imagined he would be forced to find a new career. However in 2001 following a company layoff, that is exactly where he found himself.

Oustifine was laid off from his job as service manager for a local boat repair company after more than 10 years of service.

"I wasn't sure what to do or where to go. I was worried about not being able to be hired for a job because of my age," said Oustifine.

"Through the Worksource I took an evaluation test to see what career occupation would best suit me. One of the career choices was a machinist. The Worksource referred me to Lone Star College-North Harris," he said.

Oustifine was able to receive a scholarship to complete his manual machinist course and continue his studies at LSC-North Harris.

"Machinists were identified as high demand occupation and I was in desperate need of employment and a new set of skills. LSC-North Harris provided the basic training for me to learn the trade and connected me with D & R Specialties in Navasota for my on-the-job training which was part of my curriculum. D & R hired me permanently once my course was complete," he said.

"He has been working for D & R ever since he completed his courses and is very happy with his new career," said David's wife, Phyllis Oustifine.

"I would tell anyone thinking about continuing their education that it is never too late to go back and there is assistance available. I never thought that I would be changing my career, especially at my age. You just have to be determined that you are going to do it and make the change," he said.

# LONE STAR FOUNDATION

## CO-CHAIRS ANNOUNCED FOR LSC FOUNDATION STARGALA 2009 "SUMMER IN THE CITY"

Earlier this year, the Lone Star College Foundation Board proudly announced that four extraordinary community volunteers, Linda and Donnie Humphries and Lisa and Fred Koetting, have agreed to co-chair *StarGala 2009*.



Donnie and Linda Humphries and Lisa and Fred Koetting

"We are delighted that the Humphries and Koettings have agreed to serve in a leadership role for the *StarGala 2009*," said Darcy Mingoia, LSC Foundation executive director.

"Both couples have an exemplary record of serving community non-profits. Their commitment to our cause, evidenced by their personal giving to LSC Foundation, is an outstanding example to all," said Mingoia.

The Koetting's are 17 year residents of The Woodlands and have three grown children. Fred has worked in the steel industry for 29 years and is a partner in Schulte Building Systems in Cy-Fair. Lisa is an active volunteer in the community and longtime advocate for the American Heart Association.

The Koetting's have been involved with several LSC-CyFair corporate training programs in welding and drafting and have funded an endowment to benefit a LSC-CyFair student in the program.

"We feel that there is no better investment than the continuing education of the community's youth," said Lisa Koetting.

"Our goal is to make people aware of what LSCS does to strengthen our economy and our local community and to better equip our students to manage their future," said Koetting.

"Whether you are a business owner or just simply a homeowner in the LSCS service area, your educational support is an investment in the people of our community. There can be no better return on your time and contributions," Koetting said.

Donnie and Linda Humphries have spent more than 30 years serving the Cy-Fair community through their business relationships, service and volunteer roles.

Linda is a vice president with Allegiance Bank Texas and is a member of LSC-CyFair President's Advisory Council and serves on the board of Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.

Donnie is vice president of Schulte Building Systems. Two of their three children attended LSC-CyFair and LSC-North Harris.

"We are very supportive of the community college system and have seen the benefits to the workforce in the Cy-Fair community," said Linda.

"We want to help students attend college who otherwise might not. Both of us are passionate about the opportunities available at LSCS and are honored to serve as co-chairs for *StarGala 2009*," she added.

"There is no doubt that this year's event will be extraordinary and record-setting because of the guidance and leadership of Donnie, Linda, Fred and Lisa," said Mingoia.

## LSCS CLOSING THE GAPS PROVIDING QUALITY, CONVENIENT AND AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Lone Star College System provides a unique and affordable opportunity to students seeking higher education opportunities that four-year institutions simply cannot offer.

The state plan for higher education, Closing the Gaps, calls for significant enrollment increases in Texas by 2015. Most of the new students will enroll at one of the state's community colleges and student affordability is a critical element to achieving enrollment increases.

While an increase to the 2009-2010 LSCS tuition and fees schedule was necessary to keep up with declining state funding, LSCS remains a quality, affordable alternative to students.

The increase will help offset a decline in state appropriations, said Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSCS chancellor. Even with the increase, LSCS remains one of the most affordable higher education options in the area.

"Anytime we must increase tuition, there is a lot of thought, discussion and accounting that goes into making that decision," said Carpenter.

"While our ultimate goal is to keep education affordable and accessible to our students, we are

concerned about declining state funds. We know our taxpayers do their part to support our colleges and we have to ask the same of our students," Carpenter said.

A LSCS student enrolled in 15 hours in the fall would pay \$747 in tuition and fees. In contrast the same student enrolled at the University of Houston would pay an estimated \$6,450.

"Education opens the door to new and exciting opportunities for our community members and increases economic development and well-being for us all," said LSC Foundation director, Darcy Mingoia.

"Keeping tuition costs low and providing adequate financial assistance are keys for student's persistence and success," she added.

## NURSING EDUCATION HELPS CHANGE FUTURE

With four children under the age of seven, Eli Gross has his hands full at home as it is. Add nursing school to his plate and he has a very busy and full schedule.

Gross began his pursuit to become a nurse in 2004 at Lone Star College-Willow Chase Center and completed his registered nurse degree from Lone Star College-Tomball in 2008.

Currently Gross is employed as a RN for Tomball Regional Hospital.

"My goal is to continue my education and become a nurse practitioner," said Gross.

"I have been married for 8

# COLLEGE FOUNDATION

years and have 4 children ages 2, 3, 5 and 7. Taking courses at LSCS was not only affordable but the locations were so convenient," he said.

Any spare time he finds, Gross enjoys pursuing his love for music and art by playing piano and guitar and painting.

## FIVE LSCS STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS AT 16TH ANNUAL CHANCELLOR'S BREAKFAST

During the 16th Annual Lone Star College Foundation Chancellor's Breakfast, five Lone

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lone Star College Foundation, this message is written to express our sincere gratitude to all donors of the Foundation. During the past five years, we have distributed approximately \$1,000,000 in scholarships to students of Lone Star College System and over \$2,000,000 in program support to the System. There are currently 203 Named Endowments that will continue to provide scholarships in perpetuity.

Because of your generosity, the Foundation is changing lives and making our community a better place to live. Thank you for your past and future support.



Karen West  
Chair, Lone Star College  
Foundation  
Board of Directors

Star College System students presented their personal stories of how a community college education is changing their lives.

More than 150 LSC Foundation donors and friends attended the event hosted at Shirley Acres.

The students, one from each Lone Star College, were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for their winning essays addressing the prompt, "How My Community College Experience Has Influenced My Life."

"The opportunity to hear from students about their life experiences and the impact of attending Lone Star College System is a compelling reinforcement for supporting the Lone Star College Foundation," said Fred Caldwell, Caldwell Companies and LSC Foundation vice chair.

"The Chancellor's Breakfast is an opportunity for LSC Foundation to thank its donors and for the donors to see what a difference their contributions make in people's lives," said Karen West, The Woodlands Development Company and LSC Foundation chair.

Last year, the LSC Foundation presented scholarships to more than 200 students.

**"The Chancellor's Breakfast is the highlight of our year," said Darcy Mingoia, LSC Foundation director.**

"It is the time we gather together our community partners and listen to the words of our students. Their stories speak volumes about the necessity of financially supporting those in need as they educate themselves and develop the skills necessary to become a part of our community's workforce. The economic ripple effect in our community of educating students is impactful to us all," said Mingoia.

## Excerpts from scholarship recipients:



Carla Breazeal,  
Lone Star College-Tomball

Although it's been a long, hard road to follow, I am one semester away from graduation today. I am especially grateful that I was directed toward this particular program (OTA) at LSC-Tomball."

Janet Jackson,  
Lone Star College-CyFair

"Given the chance to attend LSC-CyFair is a gift from God to me. I have a sense of being in place, my world finally set into order."



Karen Martinez,  
Lone Star College-Kingwood

"Besides all of these personal accomplishments, for me the greatest one is that I have grown as a person. Lone Star College-Kingwood was the vessel that took me on this journey of personal discovery which has had a positive impact in all other aspects of my life."



Linda Whittington,  
Lone Star College-Montgomery

"Lone Star College-Montgomery has contributed a verse in not only my life, but so many others. Thanks to LSC-Montgomery I not only know who I am and where I am, I know where I am going and I have met some amazing people on the way."



Moumen Soudan,  
Lone Star College-North Harris

"With the help of my adviser and professor, I became someone I have always wanted to be. LSC-North Harris has provided me with classes that weren't only educational, but also entertaining. My classmates have been humble and understanding, and my professors have helped me with both my classes and my life."



## STAN ST. PIERRE; THE MEASURE OF A LIFE IS ITS SERVICE

A successful career in the travel industry, 40 years of marriage, a granddaughter, a love for reading, golf and history, have not been enough to keep Stan St. Pierre's time and talents occupied.



Stan St. Pierre

In 1989 St. Pierre was a founder of the Aldine

Scholarship Foundation.

"ASF has invested every penny of scholarship donations in endowed funds. Now celebrating its twentieth year, ASF funds have grown from the \$7 collected at the first meeting to \$1.5 million," said St. Pierre.

"Close to 600 students who have graduated from a high school in the Aldine Independent School District have received scholarships to attend a Lone Star College as a result of ASF," he said.

St. Pierre joined the LSC and has served tirelessly for the last nine years raising both funding and awareness for the LSC Foundation. Through his tenure on the board, St. Pierre has served as a director, treasurer, vice chair and chair.

"It has been a labor of love to see such a tremendous growth in the number of students that the Foundation has provided with an opportunity to attend

college. There are so many positive stories of student success at LSCS which has lead to better lives for these individuals and therefore a better community for all of us. Raising funds to benefit someone who would otherwise not have the chance to attend college is a very gratifying endeavor," he said.

One of his favorite activities is the Chancellor's Breakfast.

"At the annual Chancellor's Breakfast when the five scholarship winners present their essays, there is an incredible emotional uplift of pride in supporting the LSC Foundation. Their expression of heartfelt thanks is very meaningful," said St. Pierre.

"The LSC Foundation has been particularly blessed to have a history of a number of passionate and active volunteers serving on our board," said Darcy Mingoia, LSC Foundation executive

director.

"Stan is one of the most devoted to the cause and is highly valued as a historical resource for us all. In addition, he and his wife Suzanne, are generous and frequent donors with multiple endowments with both the Aldine Scholarship Foundation and the Lone Star College Foundation," added Mingoia.

St. Pierre is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University and is a Certified Travel Counselor and past owner of Supertravel.

St. Pierre also serves as vice president of Scenic Texas and supports many other beautification organizations. Other service interests include the Boy Scouts, M.D. Anderson, Texas Children's Hospital, and the Houston Food Bank.

He and his wife Suzanne will celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary this year.

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