FUNDING THE FUTURE

WC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS RELIEVE FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR MANY STUDENTS
On June 1st, the Weatherford College Board of Trustees asked me to serve as WC’s interim president. So as you can imagine, this summer has been a little different for me!

I’m continually reminded about what makes this a special place…it’s all about the people. I felt that way when I first stepped on this campus in 1994 as a fresh-faced radio reporter with a full head of hair, and I feel the same—even more so—today. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of WC and all that this college stands for.

In this edition of The Hilltop, you’ll read about something near and dear to me—the impact scholarships have on our students. I’ll never forget the donor that made my scholarship possible nearly 30 years ago, and our WC donors are having the same impact on students in 2017.

You’ll also learn more about our new board members, our Faculty Member of the Year, the accomplishments of outgoing president Dr. Kevin Eaton, and more within these pages.

Thanks for supporting WC. I hope to see you on campus soon!
AFFORDABILITY is one of many reasons students choose to begin their higher education at Weatherford College. But despite WC’s low tuition rates, the dreams of many of those students would not become reality without the assistance of scholarships. That’s where the Weatherford College Foundation comes in.

The Foundation has awarded more than $1 million in scholarships since 2010. More than $242,000 has been awarded for the 2017-18 academic year so far—that’s double the amount of scholarships given six years ago.

That upward trajectory is allowing more students like Ashli Savage to attend college worry-free.

“I am a mother of three and money is very tight with me in school, so any help is so beneficial in helping me make my dreams come true, and doing so without putting me in debt,” said Savage, a nursing student and recipient of the Michael Feely Memorial Scholarship for Fall 2017. “This scholarship will ultimately help me get a step closer to my goals.”

WC students are able to apply to dozens of potential scholarships by a single online application found at www.wc.edu/scholarships. Most scholarships award $1,000 per long semester and can be renewed for another term if the student is successful.

Scholarship funds are generated by ongoing donations, estate gifts and fundraising events.

The WC Foundation Board of Directors is comprised of about two dozen community volunteers with Bob Glenn currently serving as board president.

“I am so proud to be a part of an organization that embraces the sole mission of ensuring that educational opportunities are available to those who need financial assistance,” Glenn said. “Through the years, countless students have benefited from the efforts of our Foundation, and we continue to maintain and build on our resources to make certain we are able to provide financial assistance to students of Weatherford College for future years as well.”

Among area colleges and universities, www.collegeforallt texans.com shows WC to be an affordable option with tuition and fees for the 2017-18 academic year totaling $2,440 for the average student. Costs for the same year at neighboring universities included Tarleton State University at $8,213, the University of Texas at Arlington at $9,380 and the University of North Texas at $10,480.

WC Foundation scholarships can cut annual tuition and fees to less than $500 per student.

Sterling Ford, recipient of the M.S. and Meek Lane Doss Scholarship, said the offer of financial support made his college decision easy.

“Going to a large university was my original plan; however, I realized it would hurt my parents and myself to spend thousands of dollars…when I can attend a community college equipped with a friendly staff, an excellent program, the latest technology and the chance to develop a personal relationship with my professors,” Ford said. “A scholarship means I can spend less time worrying about how I am going to pay for tuition and spend more time focusing all my energy on learning everything I possibly can.”

“Through the years, countless students have benefited from the efforts of our Foundation.”

- BOB GLENN

continues with Scholarships on page 11.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
Jim Brian, 56, of Houston, passed away June 1.
Melody Jo Jones Brown, 67, of Weatherford, passed away June 14.
John Castillo, 45, of Keller, passed away March 25.
Jerry Earl Davis, 80, of Alamagordo, NM, passed away March 16.

Helen Wright Guess, 98, of Weatherford, passed away May 20.
Clyde Kelley, 87, of Hideaway, passed away March 28.
Janis Dickie Lindbloom, 44, of Mineral Wells, passed away Feb. 21.
Walter P. Parsons, 70, of Weatherford, passed away Feb. 18.
Dovie Mirl Garner Springfield, 103, of Mineral Wells, passed away June 20.

Jackson Kevin Walsh, 26, of Weatherford, passed away March 26.
Mary Ruth Whitmire, 91, of Wichita Falls, passed away June 8.
Weatherford upset No. 11 Midland, No. 1 McLennan and No. 9 Grayson on their way to the regional finals. The team finished 35-23 after standing at 19-19 at one time in the season.

When the calendar turned to June, the rodeo team took center stage.


Weatherford College celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Alumnus of the Year Award in April with a special reception in the Speaker Jim Wright Library followed by the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon in the Doss Student Center.

2017 Alumnus of the Year Warren Creason was joined by 10 previous Alumnus of the Year Award winners during the reception that spanned generations of former WC students. Former awardees who attended the reception were: Mildred Beard, Bob Glenn, Roy Grogan, Kurt Harris, Dr. Janie Hott Humphries, Ruth Huse, Doyle Lee, Tom Pritchard, Joe Tison and Dale Young.

Creason, originally from Deming, New Mexico, attended WC on a basketball scholarship from 1974 to 1976 after visiting the campus at the request of a friend who was planning to make the move to Texas after high school.

“I met Coach (Dave) Neely on Friday, and I was behind a lawn mower the following Monday (as a work-study student),” he said. “If someone says they are intimately familiar with this campus – I’m intimately familiar with this campus. I’ve cleaned every bathroom. I’ve mowed every blade of grass. This is home to me.”

Creason, now a successful commercial real estate developer, grew up in the foster system and lived in three different homes during high school. He said WC was his first home, and playing basketball helped stabilize his life.

“When you are in a situation that is as transitional as the first quarter of my life was – I struggled to find some rhythm,” he said. “At WC I learned work ethic, I learned character, and I learned that those are the things that would make me successful long term. Weatherford prepared me for life.”

Distinguished Alumni Jake Arrieta, Jenny Morris Lewallen and David C. Nicklas were also recognized during the luncheon. Lewallen and Nicklas both shared stories from their college days. Arrieta was unable to attend due to his schedule with the Chicago Cubs.

Lewallen is now retired after a career as a national leader in the U.S. Postal Service, and Nicklas is serving his second term as Palo Pinto County Judge.

May was an exciting month for the WC Athletic Department.

The Coyote softball and baseball teams each came within one game of their respective national tournaments, but the squads arrived in their regional tournament finals taking completely different paths.

The softball team was dominant all year. Ranking as high as No. 8 in the nation, WC won 17 of their last 18 regular season games. The Coyotes sported a 46-11 overall record, won the conference title and swept the major postseason awards in the league.

The baseball team took on the spoiler role in the regional tournament, knocking off several nationally-ranked teams. Entering as the third seed out of four from their conference,
1. More than 500 hungry patrons attended the ninth annual Taste of Parker County in May to help the Weatherford College Foundation raise approximately $20,000 to support the students of WC.

“We can't thank our vendors, sponsors and patrons enough for sticking with us” said Brent Baker, Executive Director of the Foundation. The event was postponed for a week due to inclement weather. “Everyone had a great time for a great cause.”

First place winners of this year’s event include Boo-Ray’s of New Orleans, Shep’s Place, Chick-fil-A, 2 Outlaws BBQ, Back Home Bakery, Rosa’s Café, Justice Burger, The Pizza Place and White Beard's BBQ.

2. Nancy McVean, Weatherford College drama instructor, is 2017 Faculty Member of the Year. McVean is retiring from Weatherford College in August after 38 years at the helm of the drama program.

McVean has served the college on the Faculty Senate and sponsored college events for students and employees including organizing trips to New York City.

“Nancy is like no other,” said Dr. Alexander Ibe, the 2016 Faculty Member of the Year who announced McVean as this year’s recipient during the May commencement ceremony. “She is an ‘institution’ and has served with great distinction for decades.”

3. Nine Weatherford College agricultural students participated in the
TJCAA Convention and Contest. Cole Summers was the high point individual in the Horticulture Quiz and Sylvia Etter was high point in the Equine Science Quiz. The team, consisting of Kennedie Bagwell, Rachael Spencer and Kleg Smith, placed second with their Public Relations presentation. Kennedie Bagwell filled in as the Reporter on the State Officer Team. This was the first year WC has participated in this activity in recent years.

4. WC baseball hosted First Responders’ Day on April 1 by inviting them and their families to enjoy a free game and meal. Parker County Fire Marshal Kurt Harris, the 2016 WC Alumnus of the Year, threw out the first pitch.

5. WC Baseball Coach Jeff Lightfoot celebrated his 600th win as a college head baseball coach on April 1. He was presented with a plaque at the end of the game by Coyote alumnus Hart Hering (2003-04). In 15 years at Weatherford, Lightfoot’s teams have qualified for the postseason eight times, sent 96 players to university-level baseball and had 30 former Coyotes play professionally. Pictured, left to right: Grayson, Jeff, Canon, Cole and Misti Lightfoot.

6. A total of 962 Weatherford College students graduated over the past academic year, and 259 of them walked the stage during the May commencement ceremony held at Weatherford High School’s Jerry Durant Auditorium.

7. Congratulations to Dr. Andra R. Cantrell, Executive Vice President for Financial & Administrative Affairs, on the attainment of her Doctorate in Education from Texas Tech University.
A record 14 Weatherford College students have received Academic Student-Athlete Awards from the National Junior College Athletic Association for their academic performance during the 2016-17 year.

NJCAA All-Academic First Team recipients must hold a 4.0 grade point average. Nicholas Evarts, a member of the Coyote baseball team, earned recognition on the First Team.

NJCAA All-Academic Second Team recipients must hold a grade point average of 3.8–3.99. WC Second Team members are: Softball – Abigail Reynolds; Basketball – Antanas Krimelis and Dovile Strimaityte.

NJCAA All-Academic Third Team recipients must hold a grade point average of 3.6-3.79. Third Team members are: Baseball – Corbin Bozosi, Landon Gray and Ryan Van Leeuwen; Softball – Lindsey Bishop and Morgan Rackel; Women's Basketball – Lydia Friberg, Madison Mayfield, Reyna Ammons and River Romine; Men's Basketball – Roka Mazionis.

“Academics is the key foundation to all of our programs,” said Bob McKinley, WC Athletic Director. “We make sure they keep their grades up in order to have the opportunity to move on to four-year schools.”

With more than 59,000 student-athletes participating in the NJCAA for the 2016-17 academic year, 10.1 percent earned a slot on one of the three highly regarded All-Academic Teams – a significant increase from the last year’s record number of 7.9 percent.

FORMER COYOTE CONTINUES TO PERSEVERE

Weatherford College softball alumna Bethany Allen was presented with the Ben Hogan Perseverance Award this past April. The award, sponsored by the Ben Hogan Foundation in partnership with Texas Health Ben Hogan Sports Medicine, includes a $5,000 scholarship for Allen and $5,000 for Weatherford College.

Allen, a Mineral Wells High School graduate, was a member of the Coyote softball team from 2014 to 2016, earning All-Conference and All-Region honors. During practice in the spring of 2016, she collided with a teammate and was sent to the hospital where doctors discovered a massive brain tumor.

The Ben Hogan Award of Perseverance, named after legendary golfer Ben Hogan, recognizes high school and college students who have overcome adversity or injury to return and excel in their respective sport.

While she was unable to return to the field at WC, she has continued her softball career at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She represented Henderson State on June 2 at the Women’s College World Series championship game by throwing the first pitch.

CLASS NOTES

Anna Eastman (’15) is an LCDC-I and BIPP Facilitator in Mineral Wells for Star Council on Substance Abuse.

Tracey “Rocco” Davidson (’15) is now working for J.P. Morgan Chase and Co. in Irving. He is an Oversight and Control Associate.

Jina Duncan (’17) is a paid Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Intern at Summer Sky Treatment Center in Stephenville.

Debra Gass (’17) is a Prevention Specialist conducting education in Parker County schools for Recovery Resource Council in Fort Worth.

Kayla Alene Martin-Miles (’14) won first place and a national championship at a weightlifting competition in February in Oklahoma City. In her 148 pound weight division, she had a squat of 270 pounds, bench pressed 145 pounds and deadlifted 280 pounds.

Allie Powell and Carter Skaggs (’16) were married June 3 in Weatherford.

Paul Sanchez was honored with two awards from the Austin Critics Table in June. Paul was honored for singing in the Classical Music category for his role in Pancho Villa From a Safe Distance with Theatre en Bloc and as Bob Crachit in Zach Theatre’s A Christmas Carol—A Rockin’ New Musical.

Kylee Studioso (’13) is currently working at WC as the Recruitment Coordinator. Studioso still plays for TUFF Demarini (A) Slowpitch, a Top 10 team in the nation, and coaches the NW Batbusters out of Snohomish, WA.

Stacy Wallace (’17) and Starlet Airheart (’17) received the Aaron Ruben Scholarship from the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals Fort Worth Chapter.
Dr. Kevin Eaton transitioned out of his office as President of Weatherford College in May, having served in that role since 2009.

Eaton spearheaded a comprehensive infrastructure program of more than $23 million on the Weatherford campus. These improvements included more than 70,000 square feet of new instructional facilities comprised of the Academic Building and the Don Allen Health Science Building. The new Stuart Field softball complex, multiple building renovations, increased parking and a new water wells were also added during this time.

While Eaton served as president, WC also experienced a successful 10-year accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a $2.4 million WC Foundation capital campaign and many other improvements and accomplishments.

“I’d like to thank Dr. Eaton for his service over the past eight years,” said Brent Baker, who was named interim president June 1. “I appreciate his vision and his passion for this college. He and the board accomplished a great deal during his presidency.”

Eaton came to WC in January 2003 as Tech Prep director. He was selected as Weatherford College's interim president in July 2009 and took on the role permanently Jan. 1, 2010.
Two newly elected and one re-elected member of the Weatherford College Board of Trustees were sworn in during a May meeting. Here is a look at each of them and their hopes for WC.

**SUE COODY**

**Family:** Bill Coody (deceased), Cathy Zellers, Jim Coody (deceased), Sam Coody

**Career background:** Eight years with Weatherford ISD, two years with Irving ISD, 37.5 years with Weatherford College

**Did you or any member of your family attend WC?** Jim had freshman comp with Jeanine Irby. Sam had algebra with Martin Brown. I had French and Spanish with John Fields, and I am an active member of WC Ex-Students.

**What motivated you to run for the board?** Having lived for over 50 years as a member of our beloved Weatherford College family is what led me from a career in educational leadership to serve at the next level of leadership on the Weatherford College Board of Trustees. I learned from my father, who served many years on the board of trustees of East Bernard ISD, that leadership is both a privilege and a commitment.

**What do you see as today’s greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC?** All Texas community colleges are facing, and will likely continue to face, major funding challenges. We have met this need for almost 150 years, and we will continue to do so, but added challenges created by state mandates such as changes in dual credit, workforce partnerships, controls on property taxing at the local level and possible controls placed on tuition must also be dealt with. These issues affect just about everything else we do at WC.

**What is your vision for WC?** Our shared vision is to continue to function as one of the highest-rated community colleges in Texas, and indeed in the nation, just as we have done for almost 150 years. My personal vision includes preparing to celebrate our 150th year in the best way possible.

**What is your greatest passion or interest besides WC?** My family (which always includes my WC family) is my main focus and will certainly continue to be. It is also very important to me that I stay in contact with former colleagues and students.

**JUDY MCANALLY**

**Family:** Kent McAnally, husband

**Career background:** Texas Health Neighborhood Care and Wellness, Willow Park (current), UT Southwestern Medical Pharmaceutical Sales for 16 years

**Did you or any member of your family attend WC?** Not my immediate family. My husband’s cousin, Jenny Lewallen, was just honored as a distinguished graduate in May 2017. My father-in-law, Charles McAnally, served on the board. Our Emergency Department manager attended Weatherford College. Many of my friends and coworkers have attended. Many friends and coworkers have children and grandchildren attending. Our veterinarians attended Weatherford College.

**What motivated you to run for the board?** I was encouraged to do so by community members because of my love for those who I have met and are able to work with on a day-to-day basis. The graduates of WC exemplify such tremendously high quality in their work and personal examples. I want to, if I can, help WC continue its forward trajectory in the very rapidly changing atmosphere that Parker County is approaching.

**What do you see as today’s greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC?** Growth in the community is a blessing as well as an obstacle with the budget being a looming concern. Balancing growth and a budget can be tricky.

**What is your vision for WC?** Outward growth and forward thinking while holding true to the pillars of what has made Weatherford College so strong in the past eight years. The people make WC great; we have to have great people. I hope to see the following:

1. Balanced budget
2. Raises for staff/faculty
3. Upgrading IT and maintaining a strong infrastructure
4. Increased student enrollment
5. Increased community awareness/involvement
6. Strong and positive relations with Granbury, Mineral Wells and Wise County campus personnel and students.

**What is your greatest passion or interest besides WC?** My strongest passions are many. I can’t limit it to one: healthcare, our family ranch, anything outside. I love the outdoors and all the experience and opportunity that it brings.
LELA WILLIAMS MORRIS

Family: Married to Avery Morris, local builder, for 48 years; daughter, Jennifer Shifflett, assistant principal at WHS Ninth Grade Center; son-in-law Justin, director of personal property at the Parker County Appraisal District; grandchildren Avery, just graduated from WHS and going to Texas Tech this fall, and Zane, who will be in 8th grade at Hall Middle School in the fall.

Career background: In 1983, Arthur Stockstill hired me as a secretary in student services at WC. After completing a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Texas Wesleyan University, I was given the title of testing coordinator and charged with establishing the first testing center at WC. After completing a master’s degree in Educational Administration from Tarleton State University, I was promoted to director of testing. Under my leadership, the testing center grew into the state-of-the-art testing center it is today.

Scholarships from page 3.

Students aren’t the only ones feeling good about WC scholarships. Over the years, donors have enjoyed hearing from those who benefit from their generosity.

Debbie Alexander sees students every day working as the executive assistant for Mike Endy, WC’s Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. Alexander is also the administrator of the estate of her late mother, Mary Zielinski.

“My mom had a huge heart and believed in education,” Alexander said. “She was a single mom who put herself through nursing school while raising five kids. I knew that starting a scholarship to help others would bring a huge smile to her face.”

WC RODEO ALUMNUS EARN SECOND CNFR TITLE

Former WC rodeo team member Cole Wheeler and partner Wesley Thorp lassoed a first place win in team roping during June’s College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, representing Texas Tech University with a total four-run time of 25.2 seconds.

Wheeler and Thorp also won the title of National Team Roping Header during the 2016 CNFR. Wheeler roped for WC at the time and Thorp for Ranger College. It was the third national rodeo title in WC history.

Winning the title two years in a row is quite uncommon, said WC Rodeo coach Johnny Emmons.

“They knew they were one of the best teams there, and just had to keep their focus and go out and do what they know how to do each round,” Emmons said. “They made good runs on average ‘draws’ during the preliminary rounds, and seemed to be just a little behind all week, but in the final round coming from second place, they made an outstanding run and put a lot of pressure on the leading team, which ended up succumbing, leaving Cole and Wesley the champs.”

Through her mother’s estate, Alexander has been able to not only establish the Mary M. Zielinski Scholarship but she has also helped endow several other WC scholarship funds.

“Weatherford College

Family: Married to Avery Morris, local builder, for 48 years; daughter, Jennifer Shifflett, assistant principal at WHS Ninth Grade Center; son-in-law Justin, director of personal property at the Parker County Appraisal District; grandchildren Avery, just graduated from WHS and going to Texas Tech this fall, and Zane, who will be in 8th grade at Hall Middle School in the fall.

Career background: In 1983, Arthur Stockstill hired me as a secretary in student services at WC. After completing a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Texas Wesleyan University, I was given the title of testing coordinator and charged with establishing the first testing center at WC. After completing a master’s degree in Educational Administration from Tarleton State University, I was promoted to director of testing. Under my leadership, the testing center grew into the state-of-the-art testing center it is today.

Students aren’t the only ones feeling good about WC scholarships. Over the years, donors have enjoyed hearing from those who benefit from their generosity.

Debbie Alexander sees students every day working as the executive assistant for Mike Endy, WC’s Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. Alexander is also the administrator of the estate of her late mother, Mary Zielinski.

“My mom had a huge heart and believed in education,” Alexander said. “She was a single mom who put herself through nursing school while raising five kids. I knew that starting a scholarship to help others would bring a huge smile to her face.”

WC RODEO ALUMNUS EARN SECOND CNFR TITLE

Former WC rodeo team member Cole Wheeler and partner Wesley Thorp lassoed a first place win in team roping during June’s College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, representing Texas Tech University with a total four-run time of 25.2 seconds.

Wheeler and Thorp also won the title of National Team Roping Header during the 2016 CNFR. Wheeler roped for WC at the time and Thorp for Ranger College. It was the third national rodeo title in WC history.

Winning the title two years in a row is quite uncommon, said WC Rodeo coach Johnny Emmons.

“They knew they were one of the best teams there, and just had to keep their focus and go out and do what they know how to do each round,” Emmons said. “They made good runs on average ‘draws’ during the preliminary rounds, and seemed to be just a little behind all week, but in the final round coming from second place, they made an outstanding run and put a lot of pressure on the leading team, which ended up succumbing, leaving Cole and Wesley the champs.”

Through her mother’s estate, Alexander has been able to not only establish the Mary M. Zielinski Scholarship but she has also helped endow several other WC scholarship funds.

“It warms my heart knowing that I am doing something she would be so proud of,” she said. “Having the scholarships established where I work and seeing the smiles on the recipients’ faces…that’s priceless.”

Did you or any member of your family attend WC? My daughter and I both graduated from WC. My granddaughter, Avery, has been attending as an early admission and dual credit student. She will have 21 hours to transfer to Texas Tech this fall.

What motivated you to run for the board? I worked at WC for almost 34 years. I always knew when I retired I wanted to serve on the board to give back to this institution that has given me so much. I retired at the end of 2016.

What do you see as today’s greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC? Finances, funding and technology.

What is your vision for WC? To continue to offer the community and our students the best possible education. We have such an outstanding reputation and we always need to preserve that. I believe our campuses in Wise County and Hood County are two areas that will positively effect WC in the future.

What is your greatest passion or interest besides WC? My family, of course is first. I will always do anything I can to be with or help any of them. I love to read and crochet.
FALL EVENTS

**DRAMA**  (Show Titles TBA)
- Children’s drama show
  - September 29 & 30 at 7:30 p.m.
  - October 1 at 2 p.m.
- Fall drama show
  - October 5-7 at 7:30 p.m.
  - October 5-7 at 2 p.m.
- Winter drama show
  - November 16-18 at 7:30 p.m.
  - November 19 at 2 p.m.

**ART**
- Student Art Reception
  - November 13 at 6 p.m.

**MUSIC**
- Jazz Show
  - October 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duo Azul Piano Concert
  - October 27 at 7:30 p.m.
- Choir Concert
  - November 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Messiah Concert
  - December 4 at 7:30 p.m.
- Holiday Jazz Concert
  - December 8 - Time TBA
- Student Piano Recital
  - December 8 - Time TBA

**Student Guitar Recital**
- December 8 - Time TBA

**Student Voice Recital**
- December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**INFO**
- All events are held in the Alkek Fine Arts Center.
  - Doors open half hour prior to start.
- Contact Information:
  - Joe Nicikowski at jnicikowski@wc.edu

Join our WC Fine Arts group on facebook to stay up to date on future events.