YOUR LINK TO ***YOUR COLLEGE***

DMACC Magazine

Innovation *in Education*

PAGE 4

Tony Paustian (left) and Dave Nelson

A PUBLICATION OF DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION | SPRING/SUMMER ***2023***

Director's Message

Coming off our 50th anniversary celebration last year, it would be understandable if we took a few breaths to recover as we set our sights on the start of our next 50 years. But taking a breather would run counter to everything the Foundation and its Board is about. As soon as we closed the book on our 50th, we began working on continued growth to serve more and more students.

At the top of that list was developing and approving a strategic plan to guide us through the coming years. Hours of work went into the creation of the plan, which took into account input from the Foundation team; College administration, faculty and staff; the community; and our dedicated and skilled Board. The plan follows the direction of DMACC's organization-wide strategic plan themed "Changing Lives—Empowering Communities."

With the adoption of the plan, we are prepared to launch several new initiatives designed to increase funding from our generous donors and, in turn, the level of scholarship, capital, and programmatic support we provide across our campuses and centers.

It is an exciting time to have a front-row seat in shaping the Foundation in the years to come. We provided a record amount of scholarship support last year, and the Board recently approved another record allotment of $2.2 million for the upcoming school year. In the last decade, the exceptional generosity of our donors and the vision of our Board has enabled us to increase our scholarship allotment by nearly 400%! We are providing more support for more students than at any other point in our history.

I offer a sincere thank you to our Board for making the strategic planning process a priority. I also thank all our donors who continue to answer the call in support of our students, faculty, staff, and programs.

Our "next 50 years" are off to a wonderful start and I cannot wait to share more about our ambitious, student-centered plans for the future in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Tara K. Connolly
Executive Director
DMACC Foundation

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WEB: dmacc.edu/foundation

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DMACC Magazine

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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ABOUT *DMACC MAGAZINE*

DMACC Magazine is a publication of the DMACC Foundation & Alumni Association. If you have questions or story ideas, please email them to foundation@dmacc.edu.

Thank you to the Ankeny Campus Student Activities Office for sponsoring a portion of the costs to produce *DMACC Magazine*. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Foundation Welcomes New Board President

SCOTT BENNETT of Ankeny has been named the new President of the DMACC Foundation Board of Directors.

Bennett has served on the DMACC Foundation Board since 2018, most recently as Vice President. Bennett replaces Rita Perea as President of the Foundation Board.

"We're excited to welcome Scott into his new position with the DMACC Foundation, and we're looking forward to his leadership," said Tara Connolly, Executive Director of the DMACC Foundation.

Three New Members Begin Board Service

As Market President for People's Bank in Boone, **ABBY HOWIE** knows how important it is to remain connected to the community.

"I am drawn to serving on the Board because of my respect for DMACC and the role it plays in the state," Howie says. "I am proud to have the chance to be a part of this dedicated group and to make an even bigger impact on the lives on DMACC students for years to come."

DMACC has long been a "huge presence" in the life of **KASHAAN MERCHANT** of Merchant Investment Inc. Many of his friends have attended classes at DMACC, and he sees his youth as an asset to the Foundation Board.

"I hope I can use my closeness in age to students to get more honest, straightforward feedback about the direction of the college," he says. "I am also looking forward to serving as a resource for any faculty or staff to bounce suggestions off."

STEVE VAN OORT is unashamed in labeling himself an amateur chef. With a passion for cooking, he has long been a supporter of the programs and services of the Iowa Culinary Institute (ICI) on DMACC's Ankeny Campus. The excellence he saw in the ICI encouraged him to accept a role on the Foundation Board.

"I think the Foundation is well positioned to support students," he says. "I am excited to join the Foundation Board as it is invested in the community, visionary, and committed to supporting the College."

FOUNDATION *Board*

Our Leadership

As the preferred giving channel for all DMACC initiatives, the DMACC Foundation works cooperatively with individual donors, local businesses, and support organizations to ensure funding is available for student scholarships, facility and program enhancements, and more. We thank these Board members for their vision and service:

Scott Bennett, President
Jeff Lamberti, Vice President
Natalie Bachman, Secretary
Kim Butler Hegedus, Treasurer
Rita Perea, Past President
Mark Rasmussen, Alumni Committee Representative
Abby Howie, Boone Committee Representative
Doug Burns, Carroll Committee Representative
Jessica Cole, DMACC Staff Representative
Carlos Arguello
Rebecca Banzhaf
Kristi Christensen
Chris Costa
Becky Gibson
Mike Grandgeorge
Roger Hargens
John Irving
Tanner Kinzler
Mary Kramer
Dr. Keith Krell
Martha Lebrón-Dykeman
Dr. Mark Menadue
Kashaan Merchant
Patty Scallon
Taufeek Shah
James Spooner
Rob Taylor
Steve Van Oort
Curtis Van Veldhuizen

EMERITUS
Dennis Albaugh
James Fleming
Robert Horner (deceased)
Mike Kammerer
Donald Lamberti

To learn more about Foundation governance, please visit us online at **dmacc.edu/foundation**.

Innovation *in Education*

Provost Tony Paustian often jokes that he "came with the dirt" at DMACC West Campus. The only Provost the West Des Moines campus has ever known, he has been instrumental in forming and nurturing the vision for a high-tech educational hub easily accessible to urban, suburban, and rural students alike.

"West was built and designed to be a technology-focused facility," Paustian says. "So we developed our programming with that vision in mind."

Initial programs at West Campus focused on the areas of Telecommunications/Telephony, Programming, Software Applications, Computer Networking, Internet 2 Technologies (including E-Commerce), Business Administration, and Liberal Arts. The primary intent was to reach and serve new students who had not previously attended DMACC. The way the West Campus team went about it was nothing short of innovative.

Ahead of the Curve

Students used hand-held technology in the place of textbooks—the first college in Iowa and one of the first organizations of any kind in the United States to do so. The campus featured a comprehensive Wi-Fi network, making it the only completely wireless campus in the state. Classrooms made use of smartboards and flatscreen computer monitors instead of the more conventional chalkboards, VCRs, and overhead projectors.

In just months, the campus was recognized as one of the most technologically advanced organizations in the country. Articles about the approach to education popped up in national publications like *USA Today* and *Wired Magazine*, and features were included on cable television behemoths like CNN.

By 2003, West Campus was recognized as one of the 100 most innovative organizations in the country.

"We came in at number 51 on that list," Paustian recalls. "And it wasn't the top 100 colleges. It was the top 100 organizations. We ended up above NASA's Langley Research Center. That was pretty incredible."

Innovating and Evolving

Despite all the positive press, West Campus faced strong headwinds in its first few years resulting from the dot-com bubble bursting. The collapse of several tech firms in a short period of time in the months before the campus opened forced Paustian and his team to think outside the box to get students to consider a career in tech.

"There was such a negative perception of tech careers during that period of time and we saw a decline in student numbers," Paustian says. "It forced us to be innovative in our offerings and to evolve a bit from the initial vision. While we remained committed to being tech-forward, we did add a liberal arts transfer degree program and a business administration program."

The ability to adjust on the fly in those early years has instilled a sense of confidence in the faculty and staff at West Campus. It also pushed the team to be proactive in presenting technology and innovation in a positive light—not just for students, but for the community as a whole.

Showcasing Innovation

The unique focus of West Campus has allowed it to continue to push the envelope when it comes to programming. Among two of the most visible initiatives that were spurred on the campus are the annual ciLive! (Celebrate Innovation Live!) event and the Celebrate! Innovation Exhibition.

The event was launched in 2010 and features live broadcasts, workshops and entertainment (read more on Page 11). The exhibition features interactive displays on innovations relating to the development of technology like the personal computer, communications and more. Each room in the exhibit is themed after a different great American innovator. The exhibition is promoted on freeway signs and listed as a "must-see" by the Iowa Department of Tourism.

"The event and the exhibition are at the core of who we are as a campus," Paustian says. "We are always looking for new ways to reach our students and the community."

He adds that it is a team approach that has helped West Campus continue to grow in its offerings and enrollment.

"I've been lucky in that I have been able to play a role in the hiring of everyone who has ever worked here," Paustian says. "This is a great group of people who work so well together and are very dedicated to the College. They have made West Campus what it is and I'm proud of each of them. When my time comes to leave the West Campus, it will be in good hands because of the incredible group that is here now."

Encouraging *Innovation*

When discussing the growth of DMACC West Campus and the success of events like ciLive!, Provost Tony Paustian is quick to point out the role corporate partners have played in making it all happen.

From the early days West Campus has benefitted from parterships with companies like Microsoft, Palm, Cisco and Apple in fulfilling its vision of creating one of the first totally wireless campuses in the country. In the years that have followed, the continued support from companies like West Bank and organizations like the Greater Des Moines Partnership has helped West Campus launch innovative programminig like the ciLive! event.

Left to right, Jenae Sikkink, Jay Byers and Meg Schneider of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

A Great Investment

For Dave Nelson, CEO of West Des Moines-based West Bank, providing financial support and working closely with Paustian and his team at DMACC to host the ciLive! event represents a great investment in the community.

"We intentionally look for individuals like Tony and organizations like DMACC to support," Nelson says. West Bank has been a major sponsor of ciLive! since its launch in 2010. "We want to partner with people and organizations who have the infrastructure and ability to provide services that allow people to expand their horizons and help themselves so they can help others.

"That is the reason we are such a strong supporter of ciLive!," Nelson continues. "We align with the purpose behind it—to educate, entertain, and inspire learners of all ages and at no cost to them."

Nelson notes that one of the drivers of West Bank's sponsorship is ensuring the event remains free and that the programming can be recorded and archived, so presentations can be watched on demand in perpetuity.

A Regional Leader

Meg Schneider, Senior Vice President of Business Resources and Community Development at the Greater Des Moines Partnership, says DMACC is a perfect partner.

"We are big on thought leadership, big on innovation, and focused on the future of the region including the availability and development of talent," Schneider says. "West Campus and the ciLive! event nicely bundle all of those things."

Like West Bank, the Greater Des Moines Partnership has sponsored the ciLive! event for years. Jay Byers, President and CEO of the organization, says the event presents the region in a great light.

"In many ways, ciLive! has grown to become the region's version of a TEDx conference or South by Southwest," Byers says. "Tony and his team routinely bring in top-tier thought leaders in a wide range of different disciplines and make them available to our entire region for free. Being part of that is special for us and we are proud we can help make happen."

A Valuable Partner

Supporting DMACC means more than helping fund an annual event for West Bank and the Greater Des Moines Partnership. Both organizations see DMACC as a vital resource for Iowans.

"Our affinity for DMACC goes beyond sponsoring ciLive!," Nelson says. "We have many DMACC graduates who work at West Bank. We know the value of the education they have received and that encourages us to continue to support the college."

Jenae Sikkink, Senior Vice President of Talent Development at the Greater Des Moines Partnership, adds that DMACC is an economic driver in the region.

"As we look at business growth and community growth for the region, it's really important that we have a robust talent pipeline," she says. "It's very important that we have strong anchor institutions that are serving our community and willing to meet employer needs. DMACC plays an integral role in ensuring that happens. We couldn't be more proud to continue to provide our support."

"We have many DMACC graduates who work at West Bank. We know the value of the education they have received and that encourages us to continue to support the College."

—Dave Nelson, CEO, West Bank

Celebrating *Innovation*

West Campus Provost Anthony Paustian (left) interviews LeVar Burton of Reading Ranbow and Star Trek.

Annually since 2010, DMACC West Campus has hosted the ciLive! (Celebrate Innovation Live!) event, offering students and the community opportunities to interact with people (some famous, all inspired) who have dreamed, created, and accomplished. During the thought-provoking and interactive event, students listen, absorb, and engage without the stress of the regular class routine. Generous sponsors make the event free and open to the public.

ciLive! *Sponsors*

West Bank
SHIVEHATTERY
ANGLO
GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP
WILLIS AUTOMOTIVE
DES MOINES UNIVERSITY
Jordan Creek
HyVee
ARAG

"I am firm believer that the most meaningful approach to storytelling is interaction with the people who *are* the stories: current, living, creators of new ideas and developers of the latest innovations," says West Campus Provost Tony Paustian. "Through engagement with the 'who behind the what,' the stories come alive and create an emotional impact."

ciLive! is a local-facing conference with world-class presenters, making it, according to Paustian, "A unique combination of a university lecture series, Ted Talks, and SXSW."

A Rich History

ciLive! was born out of a conversation during the construction of the permanent Celebrate! Innovation exhibition in the DMACC West building. Paustian felt an event that featured actual innovators speaking about their experiences would serve to attract more people to the building and exhibit.

The first ciLive! was held March 1 through 5, 2010 and featured keynote speaker Captain Alan Bean, Apollo 12 and Skylab 3 astronaut, and the fourth man to walk on the moon. Working with a limited budget those first few years, Paustian still managed to bring nationally known speaker Steve Wozniak to headline the annual event in 2012. Today each ciLive! hosts multiple keynote speakers and four featured speakers, all presented free of charge to the public. ciLive! has grown rapidly from its humble beginnings in 2010 to an event that attracts tens of thousands of people either attending in person or watching live though the HD broadcast on e360TV.

"Even as we have seen the event grow and gain more recognition regionally, we remain committed to facilitating interactions with innovators," Paustian says. "It is a significant event that has become more valuable to our students, community and sponsors that we ever could have envisioned."

"The scholarship has helped me to focus on my studies and determine what it is I want to do for a career."

—Georgmain James-Turner

Building *a Career*

With a little nudge from his uncle, Georgmain James-Turner enrolled at DMACC West Campus after graduating from Valley High School in West Des Moines. James-Turner's uncle, who runs a non-profit organization that partners with tech giant Microsoft, encouraged him to pursue a career in a tech-related field.

West Campus offered everything James-Turner needed.

"My uncle helped me see that there was value in a career in technology," James-Turner says. "And there were so many things that I could explore at DMACC. Maybe it could be cybersecurity or software engineering or something else. I just realized that there is a huge opportunity in technology and I want to be able to build my career there."

As James-Turner gets closer to completing his studies, he has focused more intently on cybersecurity. He has also taken advantage of an opportunity to work at a local Microsoft data center while he is in school. The job has provided him hands-on experience in repairing, replacing, and troubleshooting a variety of hardware supplying the Azure cloud environment. He says the opportunity to work at Microsoft while taking classes at DMACC has been valuable.

"We have such nice equipment and lab spaces at West Campus," James-Turner says. "And I enjoy my professors. They are very knowledgeable and have experience in the field. They can tell us exactly what to expect and they have never led me wrong. I appreciate that."

He also appreciates the support he has received in the form of scholarships, including a special award funded by Microsoft.

"Without the scholarship, I don't know if I would have enrolled," says James-Turner, who initially applied for the scholarship after his uncle introduced him to one of his contacts from Microsoft. "The scholarship has helped me to focus on my studies and determine what it is I want to do for a career."

There are a variety of giving options to support student scholarships. To learn more about making a gift in support of DMACC students, contact Tara Connolly at tkconnolly@dmacc.edu or call (515) 964-6229.

"Anything we can do to help students in these highly specialized fields is an investment in our community."

—Hazel Hull (left)
Donor and West Campus Faculty with
DMACC Student Clement Amegnigan

Supporting *Students*

DMACC West Campus Sociology professor Hazel Hull is proud to make a gift to assist DMACC students in their career goals. Working with the DMACC Foundation, she and her son established the Wayne Martin Hull Memorial Telecommunications Scholarship to support students pursing a degree in the Network Technology–Telecom/Data Communications program on West Campus.

She hopes the scholarship will establish a legacy for her brother, who worked in the telecommunications industry for more than three decades.

"His passing was a great loss to our family," Hull says. Wayne made his life in California as a telecommunications lineman and splicer with a passion for tinkering and a never ending sense of curiosity.

"He was a great guy and he was one of those people who was really good with his hands and he had an incredible work ethic," Hull continues. "He attended a community college right out of high school and worked part-time at a cable company where he was able to get some valuable training and work experience that allowed him to secure his long-term job at Pacific Bell. It is only fitting that we can establish his legacy with a scholarship that serves students pursuing a career that served him so well."

The scholarship is helping West Campus student Clement Amegnigan pursue his dream career.

"I have always had an interest in technology and have wanted to become a network engineer," Clement says. "This scholarship is providing me an opportunity to chase that dream."

As Clement closes in on his degree, he is humbled to have received such generous support.

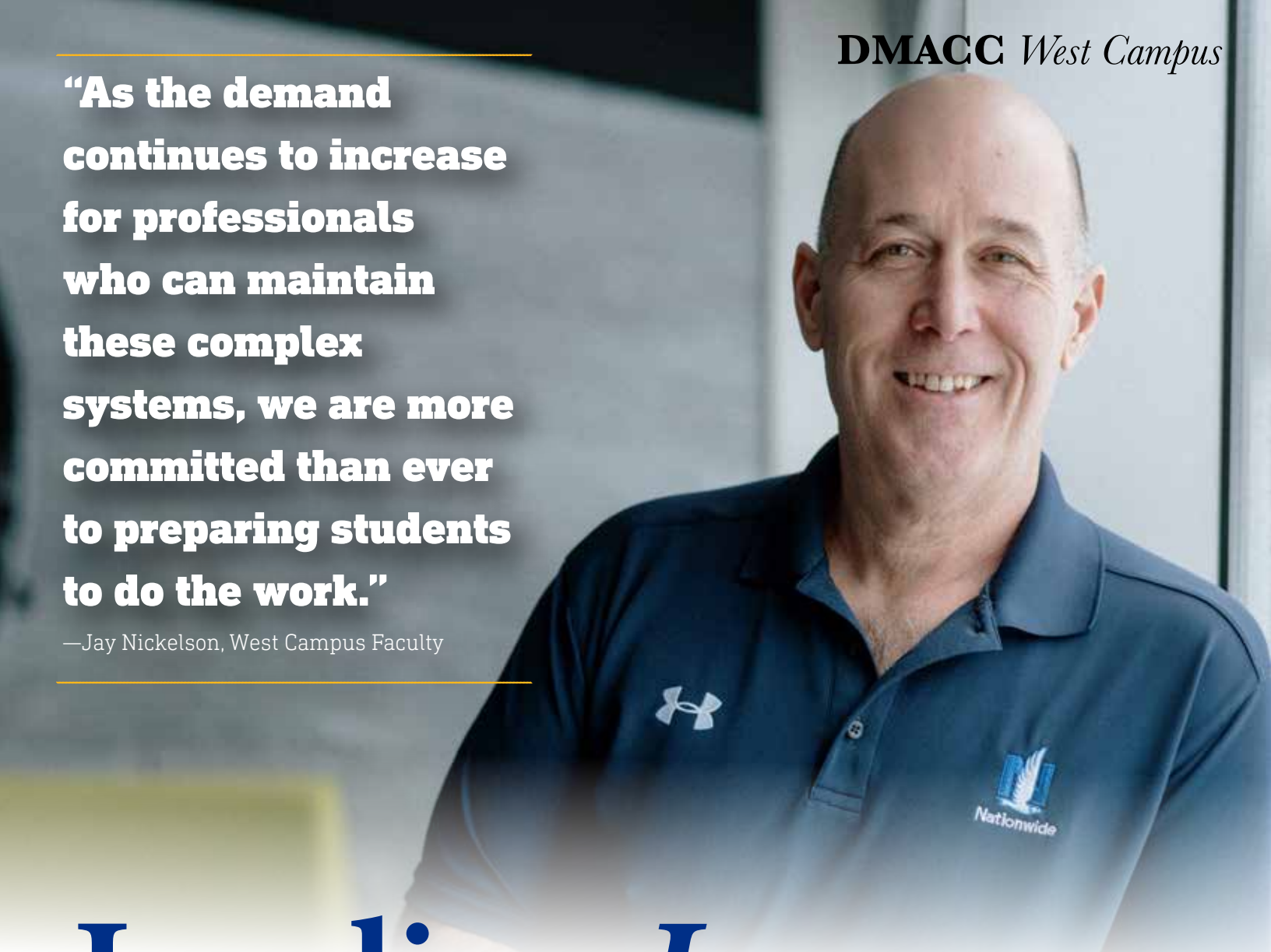
"I will always be appreciative of the support," he says. "I could not do this otherwise. This has been such a great thing in my life."

And that is exactly what Hazel had hoped.

"I am happy my brother's legacy continues through the scholarship," Hull says. "Community colleges offer a vital service in any city or state by providing technical education. When it comes to telecommunications specifically, there is always a shortage of workers. So anything we can do to help students in these highly specialized fields is an investment in our community."

"As the demand continues to increase for professionals who can maintain these complex systems, we are more committed than ever to preparing students to do the work."

—Jay Nickelson, West Campus Faculty



Leading *Learners*

As one of the first instructors hired on DMACC's West Campus, Jay Nickelson has helped hundreds of students pursue a career in telecommunications during the last two decades. He says he relishes his role in leading learners in pursuit of a career in technology.

"I tell students not to call me 'professor,' " Nickelson says. "I don't like the term at all. I like to be called an industry trainer. My job is to train students for this vocation and help them get to work. That is the ultimate goal."

And West Campus has been successful in preparing students for a variety of careers in high-tech fields ranging from Network Technology/Telecommunications to data management, web development, and more. Currently, West Campus offers four Information Technology focused degree programs and boasts the first Microsoft Data Academy in the Midwest.

Nickelson says the success of West Campus is tied closely to its ability to supply well-trained talent to meet the needs of local businesses.

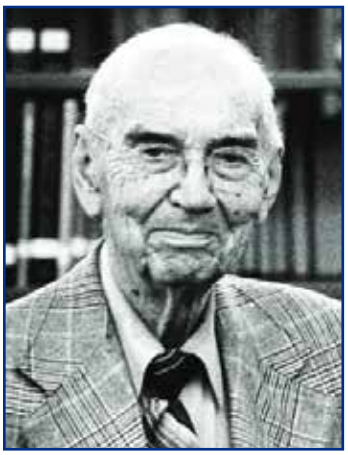
"We have always been great at partnering with businesses to ensure we are educating the types of workers that they need," Nickelson says. "We are continually tracking what types of professionals businesses need and tailoring our offerings to address the demand."

Over the years Nickelson's program at West Campus has evolved. More than ever, he is working to provide opportunities to high school students that allow them to enter the job market with specialized training much sooner than ever possible. Much of the demand currently is driven by the rapidly growing data center industry in central Iowa. In recent years, dozens of these centers have popped up in the region.

"These data centers are in desperate need of workers," Nickelson says. "As the demand continues to increase for professionals who can maintain these complex systems, we are more committed than ever to preparing students to do the work."

Giving with an Eye Toward the Future

Beginning in the 1920s and continuing for decades, virtually every civic organization and community betterment effort in Boone received a lift from Bertram (Bert) and Lillian Holst. Longtime owners and operators of the Holst Hotel in downtown Boone, the couple married in 1924 and immediately began to donate their time, talent, and resources in support of causes throughout the community.



Bert Holst

One of their special interests was boosting educational causes, as Bertram was the son of the local Superintendent of Schools and Lilian moved to the area in the early 1920s to teach. After decades of success in business, the couple made major gifts in 1981 in support of several Boone organizations, including what is now DMACC Boone Campus.

The Bertram P. and Lillian Holst Endowment provided $50,000 to be used to ensure the continuation of a quality Arts and Science division at the college. Decades later, the endowment was merged with a separate $50,000 gift made by the Holsts. Today, the endowment continues to have an impact on students studying on the Boone Campus.

In 2022, nine students were awarded a scholarship from the endowment.

"I greatly appreciate the opportunities that come with a scholarship like this," says Allison Arnold of Ogden, who received a scholarship from the endowment in the Fall 2021. "This gift helps me focus on my studies without worrying how I am going to pay for it. I am deeply honored to receive this assistance on my college journey."

To learn more about making an endowed gift in support of DMACC students, contact Tara Connolly at tkconnolly@dmacc.edu or call (515) 964-6229.

Move it! 5K is Back This Fall

Spring has sprung and outdoor running (and walking!) has resumed for many of us. That makes it the perfect time to register for our annual event in support of students.

Registration is NOW OPEN for the 6th Annual DMACC Alumni Association 5K Walk/Run. The event is set for Saturday, September 30 at 8 a.m. on the DMACC Ankeny Campus.

While the run is hosted by the Alumni Association, it is open to EVERYONE.

Cost is $30 per person until September 11. A t-shirt is guaranteed if you sign up by this date. After September 11, the cost goes up to $35, and the cost after September 25 and on race day is $40. Prizes will be offered in several categories.

Not a runner? You can still support our student scholarships by making a donation, serving as a sponsor of the event, or registering as a volunteer!

To register or for sponsor opportunities, visit: **dmacc.edu/alumni/**

Travel with Us!

We have added three sensational trips to close out 2023 as part of the DMACC Alumni Association partnership with Collette Travel and Tours. These trips offer a great opportunity for international travel.

When you register for a trip as an alum, supporter or friend of DMACC, a percentage of the trip proceeds goes to support student scholarships at DMACC. That means you travel and DMACC students benefit. Check destinations at the right and find full details linked below!

DETAILS: dmacc.edu/alumni/Pages/activities.aspx

Our 2023 Trips

Portugal and Its Islands
October 7–20, 2023

Spotlight on Tuscany
October 4 – 12, 2023

Spain's Classics
November 3 – 14, 2023

European Christmas Markets
December 4 – 12, 2023

*Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations made after the deposit deadline date are based upon availability.

Jackson, Gossett Join DMACC Board

The DMACC Board of Trustees has recently approved the appointment of Angela Jackson and Jim Gossett. Jackson is Senior Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Athene USA and represents District 9. Gossett is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative based in Glidden and represents District 3.

Jackson replaces retiring manufacturing executive Fred Buie, who served 13 years on the DMACC board.

"I'm honored to join and serve on the DMACC Board," Jackson says. "I'm looking forward to helping the College grow its capacity in terms of diversity, academic excellence, and strong leadership."

In addition to her work at Athene, Jackson has served on the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for nearly a decade. She served multiple terms as the Commission chair.

Gossett replaces longtime Carroll educator Jim Knott, who is retiring after serving DMACC for 50 years.

"Jim Knott has been a mentor to me and many others over his distinguished career in education," Gossett says. "I'm looking forward to carrying on the tradition of service that Jim and Naomi Neu (former DMACC Board Member from Carroll) established for so many years."

Gossett previously served as Executive Director of the Storm Lake Area Development Corporation and the Carroll Chamber and Area Development Corporation.

Gossett currently serves on the DMACC Foundation's Carroll Committee and the College's Business Administration Advisory Board.

DMACC's nine board members each serve four-year terms and represent the district where they live.

Angela Jackson

Jim Gossett

Good Time, Great Cause

We're baaaaa-aaaack! After being canceled each of the last three years (how can that be?!), our wildly popular Shrimp & BINGO Scholarship Fund-Raiser in support of DMACC's Water Environmental Technology (WET) is set to make its return. The event is scheduled for Saturday August 26, 2023, at the FFA Enrichment Center on DMACC Ankeny Campus.

The WET program plays a vital role in supplying skilled environmental, ecology and engineering professionals to carry on the essential work happening today. One of the barriers to developing professionals prepared to have a positive impact on their environment is the cost of earning a degree or certification. Scholarships help students make ends meet.

In years past, the Shrimp & BINGO Scholarship Fund-Raiser has provided thousands of dollars for scholarships. In total, 65 scholarships have bee provided since the inception of the WET program.

To register to attend this year's event and learn more about event sponsorship opportunities visit bingo.dmacc.edu!

DMACC
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Life's Calling

DMACC Foundation
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Gifts that Leave a Legacy

Establishing a scholarship through the DMACC Foundation is one way you can assist students and leave a legacy to the College. It's also a very meaningful way to honor family and friends. As a scholarship donor, you choose the name of the scholarship as well as the criteria.

To learn more about how you can establish a scholarship, visit:

dmacc.edu/foundation