The Richland Community College Foundation has received $15.6 million in gifts and pledges toward its “Investing in Our Future” Major Gifts Campaign. Individuals, businesses, private foundations, and corporations have made significant gifts because they believe in programs and facilities that will benefit students and faculty, provide technology upgrades, and strengthen Richland’s endowment.

Gifts received through the campaign will be used to support academic learning programs and equipment to support these programs. The development of programs in renewable energy will connect with new careers with demand for new skills. Wind Energy is one of the fastest growing industries in Illinois and the world. Richland Community College will work to help meet the demand for skilled technicians who can install, maintain, and service modern wind turbines. Richland’s wind turbine will serve as a laboratory for hands-on, real-life experience.

Thanks to funds received through the James Millikin Estate, new programs will be developed and current programs will continue to support students in the transition from high school to college.

Richland Enter's Final Phase of Major Gifts Campaign

- A Mathematics Laboratory will enhance instruction for students enrolled in Developmental Mathematics classes with the goal of increasing completion rates and ultimately accelerating progression toward college-level mathematics courses.
- CIS 101 is a primer on basic computer skills that are essential for a student to succeed at Richland Community College.
- Dual Credit collaboration with Decatur Public Schools will increase the opportunity for students at MacArthur and Eisenhower High Schools to take dual credit courses. These funds will assist with tuition for students who may not have the opportunity to enroll due to financial need.
- ED 101 will be offered free for up to 40 MacArthur High School students who are interested in this three-credit-hour college-readiness course.
- Scholarships for Richland Students living in Decatur will be continued by the James Millikin Estate for Fall 2010.
- “The College should reach its $17 million goal prior to our celebration in June,” stated Joseph Schrodt, M.D., Major Gifts Campaign Chair for the Richland Community College Foundation.
Professor's Visit to Kenya Brings Benefits to Richland Students

Pixie Fennessey, Professor of Psychology at Richland Community College, was granted professional leave for spring and summer of 2009 by the Richland Board of Trustees and lived for eight months in the slum area of the Embakasi District of Nairobi, Kenya. Pixie also was supported by the Schwandt-Albert Fund Endowment, which supports exclusive involvement in teaching or who oversee or provide direct services to students. Pixie has a long-standing relationship with an orphanage in Kenya that she visits regularly, where the children have been orphaned due to AIDS. The professional leave allowed her to spend more concentrated time and effort gathering data on how the governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are responding to the needs of the children. Pixie has a long-standing relationship with an orphanage in Kenya that she visits regularly, where the children have been orphaned due to AIDS. The professional leave allowed her to spend more concentrated time and effort gathering data on how the governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are responding to the needs of the children.

Students at Richland benefit from Pixie's experiences in third world and developing countries, to increase their appreciation for different cultures, and to bring an awareness and understanding of the scope and nature of globalization.

In addition, Pixie passes on Richland's core values of respect, accountability, and diversity through developing new curriculum, revising existing curriculum, and developing volunteer opportunities at Richland. Students learn the value of humanitarian work and the opportunities for them to engage in volunteerism. Pixie also gives presentations to community groups on different topics she researches while in Kenya, and she shares her experiences with colleagues who want to add to their programs or classroom subject matter to include a global or third-world perspective.

My hope is that others will see what a great thing it is to start at Richland because of the wonderful support and great educational foundation provided here.

- Hannah Boyd, Scholarship Recipient

Donor Spotlight: FRANK ROLF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Joan Rolf Avis established the Frank Rolf Memorial Scholarship at Richland Community College in 2003 for agriculture or horticulture students committed to continuing at the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES). Joan Avis' late husband Frank Rolf, an agriculture major, graduated from the University of Illinois ACES program in 1949. He started his career as the Assistant Manager in the Farm Department at the 1st National Bank in Decatur and retired in 1992 as the Senior Vice President. Joan Avis served as a Director on the Richland Community College Foundation Board from 2003 to 2009 and continues to serve on the Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee.

Foundations Board Welcomes New Member RUTH STAUFFER

The Richland Community College Foundation Board of Directors appointed Ruth Stauffer from Clinton as a new board member and Secretary. Ms. Stauffer is Executive Director of the DeWitt County Development Council. Prior to her current position, Ms. Stauffer was the Executive Director of Keep America Beautiful Affiliate (Clean Community System/Keep Decatur-Macon County Beautiful) for ten years.

Ms. Stauffer attended: Stephen F. Austin State University (Texas); Dallas (Texas) Community Colleges; and the University of Texas at Arlington. Ms. Stauffer was a former entrepreneur with a strong background in marketing, advertising, and management. She owned several businesses and provided bookkeeping services for restaurants in the Dallas area; along with being a Graphic Designer and Computer Consultant. She returned to Central Illinois to be near family in Macon, DeWitt, and Logan Counties.

“I have huge aspirations and dreams that extend for miles with new ones showing up daily, and thanks to Richland, I am well on my way as we speak.”

- William Luttrell, Scholarship Recipient
Over 200 donors, scholars, and family members gathered in the Shilling Community Education Center for the annual Richland Community College Foundation Scholarship Reception on Sunday, October 25. Through generous contributions from businesses, organizations, and individuals in Richland’s District, the Foundation awarded 269 scholarships valued at $232,000.

“It’s rewarding to see the dedication of so many advocates who help provide financial support so Richland students can receive the highest quality education,” says Executive Director, Louise “Wegi” Stewart. “Presenting these scholarships speaks volumes about the people who feel a connection to the College.”

In addition to scholarship presentations, highlights of the afternoon included remarks by Dr. Gayle Saunders, President of Richland Community College, Thea Robinson, Operations Manager at Caterpillar in Decatur, and Matthew Dougherty, 2003 Richland alumnus, who described how Richland Community College was a great foundation for furthering his education. Matthew also graduated from Illinois State University and Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He is currently an attorney for Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP in Springfield, Illinois.

Prairie Land Kiwanis Scholarship
Richland Community College Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of the Prairie Land Kiwanis Scholarship. This scholarship was created to assist Culinary Arts students at Richland with funds for tuition, fees, uniforms, or books.

Recipients of the Prairie Land Kiwanis Scholarship may be full- or part-time with a minimum of 6 credit hours of 100-level courses. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 also is required.

At a Culinary Arts luncheon held at Richland in November, members of the Prairie Land Kiwanis presented scholarships to Jason Grebe and Chad Barnes.

Waverly N. Waller Scholarship
Ruth Waller, a Decatur attorney, and her children, Demian and Chelsea Waller, recently established a scholarship in honor of their husband/father Waverly Novello Waller, whose passion was education and community service. This scholarship is for full- or part-time students in need of financial assistance in all majors with a preference for music or education. This scholarship requires a 2.5 cumulative GPA and may be used for tuition, fees, or books.

If you, your club, or organization would like to establish a Foundation scholarship, please contact the Foundation Office at 875-7211, Ext. 350 or 203. Foundation Scholarships may be viewed online at richland.edu/foundation/scholarships.

“My goal is to become the best elementary teacher that I can be. I cannot wait to have a class of my own and be able to help those children succeed.”

- Kimberly Hilton, Scholarship Recipient
Chinese Cuisine and Culture Experience

Students in the Richland Community College Culinary Arts Institute are planning a trip to China in May. Twenty Richland students and associated faculty members will take advantage of an educational opportunity to experience Chinese cuisine and culture as well as a hands-on understanding of the global culinary industry.

Richland’s partners in China are the Suzhou Industrial Park Institute of Vocational Technology (SIPIVT) and the Suzhou Crowne Plaza Hotel. The SIPIVT is a higher education institution located in Suzhou, China. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is a five-star hotel that caters to international clientele doing business in Suzhou. Both the SIPIVT and Crowne Plaza Hotel are located in the heart of the Suzhou Industrial Park.

The training sessions will cover food preparation and operations under the supervision of Richland’s Chef Klink and Crowne Plaza’s Tomy Lin, Simon Wu, and Herman Wang. Students from SIPIVT will be available each day for language translation.

The Richland Foundation will assist with group travel expenses related to the trip. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Kathy Carter, Director of Scholarships, at 875-7211, Ext. 203.

Richland Community College Child Development Center

Promotes Diversity with Assistance from Grant

Richland Child Development Center received a $500 grant from the Rotary Club of Decatur #180 to enhance multi-culture awareness among children. Games, posters, and books promoting cultural awareness will be purchased and implemented into the children’s everyday activities at the Center.

“The Rotary Club of Decatur also selected the Richland Child Development Center for a grant in the same category last year. These funds were used to purchase musical instruments from Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, and other countries to expose children to music in different cultures,” said Loretta Farnham, Director of the Richland Child Development Center.

History of Richland’s Facilities:

Shilling Community Education Center

Shilling Community Education Center was made possible by a $750,000 gift from the estate of the late Franklin W. Shilling, administered through Busey Bank (formerly Main Street Bank and Trust). Richland’s first endowment assisted in the construction of the 44,607-square-foot Shilling Center completed in January 1993. An additional $2,250,000 was sought from the State of Illinois’ “Building Illinois” fund for use in constructing the $3 million building that features a 325-seat auditorium, banquet room with seating for 300, conference rooms, several classrooms, and the Culinary Arts Kitchen. The auditorium and several meeting rooms were named after Shilling’s father, Charles Franklin Shilling, who was mayor of Decatur from 1901 to 1905 and who was extremely active in community affairs at the turn of the century.

Franklin Shilling, a public accountant, died in Decatur on February 15, 1978, at age 83. Following in his father’s footsteps of community service, Franklin was the first elected Macon County auditor and served as president of the Decatur Library Board.

The Shilling Community Education Center is available for use by students, faculty, staff, and the community for the purpose of meetings, programs, teleconferences, performances, and other events by calling 875-7211, Ext. 240.