



# CLARK STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

## FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN



When I was asked to chair the Connecting Communities Campaign for Clark State, my primary concern wasn't whether people would support it; this is a very generous

community, and the campaign's initiatives are important to our future. Rather, I wondered whether we could enlist the volunteers we would need to make the campaign happen. Our community has had a number of campaigns for important projects over the past few years, and many of those campaigns have asked the same volunteers to help.

Yet here we are, midway through the Connecting Communities Campaign, and more than 70 people have already been actively involved as volunteers. That is truly a testament to how people view the vital role of Clark State in our community. Some are listed in this newsletter; others will be listed in future issues.

I thank each and every one of them for making this campaign possible. I look forward to sharing the excitement when these campaign projects become reality because of their efforts!

*Andy Bell*

Andy Bell  
Campaign Chairman  
Connecting Communities

*"There are so many Clark State students just like me: not looking for a handout, just a helping hand."  
—Jennifer Clay*



## COLLEGE DREAMS COME TRUE

One hundred children in our community are now planning for college—a dream that would have seemed impossible just over a year ago. Giving those children the dream is exactly what the Clark State Foundation intended when it launched the Champion City Scholars program with the Springfield City Schools.

Research shows that most students decide on their educational goals between eighth and tenth grades. So each year, the Clark State Foundation selects 50 students who are completing seventh grade to be Champion City Scholars. In order to be considered for the program, neither parent can have a college degree; the family must qualify for the free lunch program in the schools; and the student must show academic potential.

For the subsequent five years, Scholars are prepared academically for college. They also participate in enrichment activities and career exploration; support from The Springfield Foundation has helped fund these activities. In addition, volunteer mentors provide continual encouragement. Upon high school graduation, Scholars will receive two years of free tuition and books at Clark State. The first 50 Scholars are now entering ninth grade, and the second group is just beginning this journey, as those Scholars enter eighth grade.



Each year a new class of 50 Scholars will be chosen. The Clark State Foundation seeks to build a \$4.5 million endowment to permanently fund the costs of the program and scholarships for these young people.

Nothing can have a greater impact upon these individuals and their families than raising their educational levels. Since 85 percent of Clark State graduates stay in our community, the effects also positively impact our workforce and our local economy.





CONNECTING COMMUNITIES MAKES US ALL STRONGER.

*DID YOU KNOW?* Community colleges are best equipped to deliver the types of post-secondary education that prepare students for today's workforce. Last year's graduates from Ohio's two-year colleges earned higher average starting salaries than their four-year counterparts. Employment for community college graduates is expected to grow by 21.7 percent in Ohio over the next decade—the fastest increase among all education and training levels and more than double the 9.7 percent average projected for all occupations during the same period.

## DIVISIONS MOVING FORWARD



As in most campaigns, several divisional teams are working to make the Connecting Communities Campaign a success.

The Lead Gifts Division was the first to begin, and those volunteers have nearly completed their efforts. These Lead Gifts

Division team members include: Andy Bell—Chair, Gary Buroker, Jim Doyle, Harry Egger, Patrick Field, Bill Fralick, Hal Goodrich, Pete Hackett, David Hobson, Randy Kapp, John Landess, Todd Leventhal, Tom Loftis, Ross McGregor, Mark Robertson, Jerry Simonton, Bill Swaim, and Monte Zinn.

The Advanced Gifts Division was next to get started, and they are well into their schedule. Co-chaired by Bill Fralick and Monte Zinn, Team Captains are Gary Buroker, John Federer, Patrick Field, Andy Irick, Doug Paugh, Jim Roediger, and Dave Sanders. Team members include Dean Blair, Charlie Brougher, Rick Dunbar, Tom Ericksen, Maureen Grady, Herb Greer, Jack Hawkes, Clayton Hays, Karlene Keating, Ed Leventhal, Mel Marsh, John McKinnon, Plato Pavlatos, John Raisbeck, Charlie Rinehart, Dennis Roark, Hans Wagner, and Dave Weaver.

To date, the campaign has raised \$6.7 million. We are grateful to our volunteers and to our donors!

## RECEPTIONS CREATED AWARENESS



Through the generosity and hospitality of many volunteer hosts and hostesses, over 150 people have had the opportunity to learn more about Clark State in a

series of lovely receptions, like the one pictured here at Todd and Gabriele Levanthal's home. In a variety of venues, attendees met with Dr. Karen Rafinski and provided important feedback about how Clark State can best support the community.

Receptions were hosted by Jenny Baader, Cathy Balas, Andy and Cathy Bell, Dean and Susie Blair, Gary and Kathy Buroker, Jim and Sharon Doyle, Harry and Linda Egger, Sharon Evans, Patrick and Kit Field, Sanford and Faye Flack, Bill and Debbie Fralick, Pete and Sandy Hackett, Greg and Alicia Hupp, Randy Kapp, Rob and Judy Kearns, Mark and Karlene Keating, Todd and Gabriele Leventhal, Dave and Lynn McLaughlin, Doug and Stephanie Paugh, Lester Smithers, Hans and Sue Wagner, Chet and Judy Walthall, and Monte Zinn.

Forthcoming issues of *Connections* will feature news and updates about the campaign initiatives and how each of us can help make a difference in the future of our community.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY CONNECT WITH THE FUTURE

For more information about the Connecting Communities campaign, please contact Kris Culp at 937.328.6087 or [culp@clarkstate.edu](mailto:culp@clarkstate.edu).

THE CLARK STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION • 937.328.6087