A $161,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust will provide Western Illinois University engineering students with expanded lab space and enhanced learning opportunities. Funding will support the re-purposing of two existing spaces in Riverfront Hall into a modern computer-aided design (CAD) classroom and an innovation lab.

The new CAD classroom will be equipped for up to 32 students, which allows for an additional eight more students than the current Western Illinois University-Quad Cities (WIU-QC) program. The classroom will support engineering courses and related research in computational methods, fluid dynamics, electronics, finite element analysis, heat/thermodynamics and other computer-based practicums.

"With documented occupational need, and demonstrated enrollment growth, we are excited about the enhanced educational opportunities provided by Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust," said WIU Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joe Rives. "We are proud of our new partnership and excited about the opportunities it brings in attracting and retaining high quality students and employees to the Quad Cities area."

The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust is one of the largest private philanthropic foundations in the state of Iowa, with annual grant distributions of over $13 million. It was created through the will of Carver, a Muscatine industrialist and philanthropist.

"We are very pleased to support WIU-QC in this endeavor to establish high-quality classrooms and laboratories for scientific and technical instruction, and look forward to witnessing its benefit to the greater Quad Cities region," said Lynne Sasmazer, program director of the Carver Trust.

According to William Pratt, director of the WIU School of Engineering, the core of an engineering program is the ability of students to learn CAD systems and to put these skills to practice in a real-world environment. The re-purposing of two areas at WIU-QC and the expanded and updated CAD classroom, along with simultaneous creation of an on-site innovation lab, will make needed and significant changes to the engineering students’ educational experience, Pratt explained.

“The charitable support that the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust has provided organizations over many years is outstanding. We are pleased and honored to have received this grant that will have a significant impact on our engineering program and our students,” stated Brad Bainter ’79 MS ’83, executive director of the Western Illinois University Foundation.
Many law school students often accumulate a lot of debt while in school, and one Western Illinois University alumnus wants to help ease that burden for WIU undergraduates.

Ernest Codilis ’73 graduated from WIU with a degree in political science; he received his Juris Doctor degree from DePaul University. Having been through law school, Codilis wants to help Western students graduate from WIU and enter law school without the debt that often accompanies higher education. To do so, he has established the Ernest J. Codilis, Jr. Pre-Law Scholarship.

“I established this scholarship to help students who aspire to become lawyers and who may not have the economic resources to realize their dream. A law school education today has increasingly become more expensive, and this scholarship will give a deserving student an opportunity to defray tuition expenses and will make a difference in that student’s life,” said Codilis.

The $10,000 annual scholarship will be awarded to a student with a pre-law minor at Western who is also a member of the Centennial Honors College. Preference will be given to those who demonstrate leadership in extracurricular activities.

Codilis is the founder and president of Codilis & Associates, P.C., an Illinois creditors’ rights law firm. He concentrates his practice in the areas of mortgage foreclosure, creditor bankruptcy and real estate litigation. He is also a partner in law firms located in Clayton (MO) and Houston (TX). Codilis has more than 38 years of experience in these fields and is licensed to practice law in Illinois, Texas, Colorado and Florida. He is a member of the Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Illinois Mortgage Bankers Association, the Texas Mortgage Bankers Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the DuPage County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Colorado Bar Association, the Texas State Bar, the American Foreclosure Network, Legal League 100 and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International.

“I look back on my experience at WIU and believe it has contributed to the success that I have had as a lawyer. WIU helped me mature emotionally and intellectually, and this is my way of saying ‘thank you’ for a job well done. I hope this scholarship will help bring stronger students to an already outstanding school. I truly look back on my time at Western as a positive life changing experience,” Codilis said.

“This is an extremely generous and thoughtful gift by Ernie. It will go a long way toward helping the recipients of this scholarship graduate with little or no debt from Western before taking on the expenses associated with law school,” said Brad Bainter ’79 MS ’83, executive director of the Western Illinois University Foundation.

William P. “Bill” McCamey ’80 MA ’82 left an impact on countless Western Illinois University law enforcement and justice administration (LEJA) students during his 32-year career; and while his life was cut short, his legacy will live on thanks to his wife, Jody, and his mother, Toby.

McCamey’s wife and mother have established the William P. McCamey Public Safety Memorial Educational Scholarship in the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration to honor Bill and his contributions to education.

“Bill always felt Western provided him a wonderful education and an opportunity to graduate from and work here. In addition, he consistently stated Western provided him the best job in the world,” Jody said. “We wanted to do something to recognize him for being the epitome of a good son, husband, dad and papa.”
Jody described her late husband as a humble man who enjoyed doing good deeds for others. His faith, family, the farm and Western were four of the most important things in his life, she added. That’s why establishing a scholarship in his memory was an easy decision for both Jody and Toby, a thought that came to Jody a few months ago, as if Bill was talking to her.

“Bill loved the University and the opportunities provided him in the short time he was here, that I thought establishing a scholarship would enable someone else to have the freedom to pursue their career without worrying so much about finances,” she said.

In 1982, McCamey joined the WIU School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (then called a department) faculty after earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western. He taught courses in criminal justice management, fire administration and policing. He also taught fire administration courses through the National Fire Academy and earned his doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Iowa.

“The McCameys hope this scholarship will help increase enrollment in the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, and also encourage many to apply when a doctorate in LEJA is established.

“Bill always ‘paid it forward.’ We want to give to an organization for which he had the utmost respect,” said Jody.

“He thought so much of Western,” Toby added. “I think he felt that he not only gave to Western, but they gave back to him, too, in many ways.”

The McCameys said this scholarship will honor Bill and hope the recipients will feel about Western the way Bill did: thankful, proud and appreciative of the great education and opportunities WIU provides.

Claire and Hazel Faust Horn Scholarship Established at WIU

If you’ve ever attended concerts at the Western Illinois Horn Festival or a Western Illinois University Brass Ensemble performance, you have heard some of the greatest music performed by Western Illinois University horn students. And, thanks to the Claire and Hazel Faust Horn Scholarship established at WIU by Hornist and School of Music Professor Randall Faust and his wife, Sharon, more WIU students will have the opportunity to further their studies, participate in these types of festival and concert performances and directly enhance the outreach of the University.

To support outstanding horn students who go above and beyond the regular music requirements, the Fausts have established the Claire and Hazel Faust Horn Scholarship, named after Randall’s parents.

“My parents’ professional history ties in directly with the history of Western Illinois University. While they were never affiliated with Western, other than the fact that they were my parents, they had a parallel experience to a lot of our students here,” he said.

Randall’s parents were first-generation college students, similar to many students at Western. Following graduation, his father began his professional career as a high school band director in Iowa, teaching in several communities—including Garden Grove—where he started the school’s first band. A decade later, after completing his doctorate at the University of Iowa, he joined the staff at Minnesota State University—Mankato, where he served as a professor, department chair and ultimately, vice president for Administrative Affairs. During his time in Mankato, he was active as a member of the Mankato Symphony Board, the Mankato Municipal Band, the Symphonic Band of MNSU (Minnesota State University) and the Chancel Choir of Centenary United Methodist Church. Even after retirement, music continued to play a role in his life as he played in the university band with many college students, until his mid-80s. Randall’s mother was also a musician, serving as a choir director and an MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) member. She passed away in 2014.

The new scholarship will be awarded to a junior LEJA or fire service major. Preference will be given to students who have been accepted or have applied to the integrated undergraduate/master’s program in LEJA or plan to continue their education to the master’s level at WIU, as well as those in financial need. The McCameys hope this scholarship will help increase enrollment in the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, and also encourage many to apply when a doctorate in LEJA is established.

“Bill always ‘paid it forward.’ We want to give to an organization for which he had the utmost respect,” said Jody.

“He thought so much of Western,” Toby added. “I think he felt that he not only gave to Western, but they gave back to him, too, in many ways.”

The McCameys said this scholarship will honor Bill and hope the recipients will feel about Western the way Bill did: thankful, proud and appreciative of the great education and opportunities WIU provides.

cont’d
The Claire and Hazel Faust Scholarship continues to support the WIU School of Music. Randall and Sharon established this scholarship in honor of their parents, who were dedicated to contributing to important causes, including higher education. Randall and Sharon wanted to ensure that students who have a passion for music and a strong work ethic are able to continue their studies without financial barriers.

"The School of Music at Western Illinois University has an outstanding reputation for excellence," said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79 MS '83. "Their gift will allow us to continue to recruit and retain outstanding students for Western Illinois University and the School of Music."

"The Claire and Hazel Faust Horn Scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding returning graduate or undergraduate applied horn student who is also a member of WIU Brass Chamber Ensembles or undergraduate applied horn students who is also a member of WIU Brass Chamber Ensembles. The School of Music at Western Illinois University has an outstanding reputation for excellence," said Bainter.

Randall explained that many of his Western horn students interact with high school students at festivals and encourage them to consider attending Western. For some, a scholarship like this is the only way to stay in school and continue to pursue their dreams—and in doing so, they help ensure a positive impact on other students in the region. Randall said the Fausts would do today what their parents did before them.

"They (Randall’s parents) were very much interested in education and helping youth excel; they did what they could to help students with their careers. They were always involved with young people. I think that’s one of the reasons why we wanted to make sure there was a legacy here as well," said Sharon, who also had experiences as a student oboist.

"My parents were a real inspiration in that way … as parents, teachers, music teachers … in support of our education and things in their community," said Randall.

The Fausts believe that the recipients of this scholarship won’t be the only ones impacted. Randall explained that many of his Western horn students interact with high school students at festivals and encourage them to enroll at Western. For some, a scholarship like this is the only way to stay in school and continue to hone their skills—and in doing so, they have a positive impact on other students in the region. This type of giving is something Randall said the Fausts would do today and did do throughout their lives.

"They (Randall’s parents) were very much interested in education and helping youth excel; they did what they could to help students with their careers. They were always involved with young people. I think that’s one of the reasons why we wanted to make sure there was a legacy here as well," said Sharon, who also had experiences as a student oboist.

"The School of Music at Western Illinois University has an outstanding reputation for excellence," said Bainter.

Randall explained that many of his Western horn students interact with high school students at festivals and encourage them to consider attending Western. For some, a scholarship like this is the only way to stay in school and continue to pursue their dreams—and in doing so, they help ensure a positive impact on other students in the region. Randall said the Fausts would do today what their parents did before them.

"They (Randall’s parents) were very much interested in education and helping youth excel; they did what they could to help students with their careers. They were always involved with young people. I think that’s one of the reasons why we wanted to make sure there was a legacy here as well," said Sharon, who also had experiences as a student oboist.

"The Claire and Hazel Faust Horn Scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding returning graduate or undergraduate applied horn student who is also a member of WIU Brass Chamber Ensembles or undergraduate applied horn students who is also a member of WIU Brass Chamber Ensembles. The School of Music at Western Illinois University has an outstanding reputation for excellence," said Bainter.