



Developments

This issue profiles individuals who have chosen to share their resources with Western Illinois University. The desire of these individuals to share their success with the University touches the lives of students on both of Western's campuses.

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WIU-Quad Cities Receives Ontiveros Gift to Support Three Initiatives

Thanks to a generous contribution from founder and chair of Group O, Robert (Bob) Ontiveros, and his wife, Blenda, three Western Illinois University-Quad Cities initiatives received a boost in May. The Ontiveroses announced a significant gift to support WQPT's Vibrant Neighborhoods project, the WIU Small Business Development Center/International Trade Center (SBDC/ITC) on the Quad Cities campus and WIU-QC minority enrollment initiatives.

The investment in WQPT will help raise the profile of the Mercado on Fifth events to a region including more than 400,000 households in a 15-county area of Iowa and Illinois. This will include two 30-minute programs showcasing Hispanic culture.

"WQPT is grateful for the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Ontiveros," said Mary Pruess, WQPT director. "This will help us provide visibility to the Mercado on Fifth, as well as produce two documentaries about celebrations of cultural significance to the Hispanic community: Mexican Independence Day and Day of the Dead."

Mercado on Fifth is a non-profit outdoor market, founded by Ontiveros, in Moline's Floreciente neighborhood, which features local vendors, food trucks and live entertainment each Friday from 5-9 p.m. from June 2-Oct. 27.

The investment in the Small Business Development Center/International Trade Center at the WIU-QC campus will further establish these economic development entities on the WIU-QC campus. It is the Ontiveros' hope this gift will specifically enhance the outreach program efforts to minority business owners.

"It's important that WIU advance our social responsibility and the goals and objectives of the region by supporting community and economic development in our host communities and region," said Joe Rives, vice president for Quad Cities and planning. "The SBDC has already been working in the Floreciente neighborhood to spur business development. This approved grant allows WIU to expand that presence and have a permanent WIU-QC campus location to ensure all Quad Cities' entrepreneurs are served."

The SBDC offers an array of services that can help a new business get off the ground, such as one-on-one business advice, marketing and branding consultation, economic impact analysis and much more. To help companies export or participate in global supply chains, the ITC can assist in understanding foreign trade zones, and evaluation of a company's readiness to export, among other services.

Finally, the Ontiveroses have directed funding to WIU-Quad Cities campus growth initiatives, including efforts to recruit new financial partners that will enhance Minority Enrollment Initiatives and scholarships.

"Blenda and I are proud to offer educational opportunities to minority students who may not have the financial means to obtain a higher education," said Bob. "As community leaders, we need to



VP of Quad Cities and planning Joe Rives, Bob and Blenda Ontiveros, WIU President Jack Thomas.

"I offer my gratitude and appreciation for the Ontiveros' continued generosity to Western, and for this most recent gift, which will make a tremendous difference in the Quad Cities region," said WIU President Jack Thomas. "Thank you, Bob and Blenda, for believing in Western Illinois University."

invest in our local talent to build a more diverse business environment in the future.”

Group O is an end-to-end outsourcing provider specializing in marketing, supply chain and packaging solutions

headquartered in Milan. The Ontiveroses have previously established an endowed scholarship for full-time Quad Cities students with demonstrated financial need.

“Western Illinois University is grateful to Bob and Blenda Ontiveros, as well

as Group O,” said Brad Bainter, vice president for advancement and public services. “They have been extremely generous to WIU over the years, and we are pleased to receive this gift that will assist three initiatives on the WIU-QC campus.” ♦



Keyes-Rademacker Archives Endowment Fund Established at WIU

Etched on Washington, D.C.’s National Archives Museum is the Shakespeare quote, “What is past is prologue.” Ruth Keyes Rademacker firmly agrees. That is why she wants to help Western Illinois University preserve and promote the history of west central Illinois. Rademacker has named WIU as the primary beneficiary of a life insurance policy to create the Keyes-Rademacker Archives Endowment Fund.

“Although growing up in a home with very limited funds, available reading material was always a priority. My parents, Velma and Marshall Keyes, were lovers of local history, as well as being active in the Brown County Historical Society, with Velma being a charter member. With that background, I saw the need early on for preservation of the written word,” shared Rademacker.

As many students were during the mid-point of the 1900s, Rademacker was an education major. She graduated from Western in 1960 with a degree in education and a minor in library science. While at Western, she worked in the library as a student worker, which she said prepared her for a diverse and fulfilling career.

“While minoring in library science, I became very interested in that work with instructors such as Lois Mills and Jeanne Osborn,” she said. “Their enthusiasm helped in my decision to make libraries my life’s work.”

Her professional career began as librarian at the Braille and Sight Saving School in Jacksonville, IL. Her next position

was head of the Volunteer Transcribing Section in the Division for the Blind at the Library of Congress, followed by working as a teacher and librarian in the Green Valley, IL, school district. She later was an outreach librarian at the Alliance Library System and librarian for the Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical



Ruth Rademacker, center, with, from l-r, Director of WIU Archives and Special Collections Jeff Hancks, Libraries Dean Michael Lorenzen and Margaret and Bill Scranton, leaders in the Brown County Historical Society.

Society. In every position, she always saw a need for additional funds to ensure proper operation. That is why she wanted to establish the Keyes-Rademacker Archives Endowment Fund.

“While visiting the Archives in WIU’s Malpass Library to work on family history, I was impressed with the quality of preservation being done by the staff in saving valuable materials for future generations,” Rademacker explained. “As a proud WIU graduate, I decided to have

the fund established with emphasis being on the history of west central Illinois, where my roots are.”

The fund will be used to acquire, preserve and promote materials documenting the history of west central Illinois, with a special emphasis on Brown County, where her parents were long-time residents. It will include sponsorship of guest lectures, publishing of research, creating exhibits and other supportive events.

“I share Ruth’s love of the history of Western Illinois University, and preserving the history of not only the University, but of the entire west central Illinois region will benefit multiple generations to come. We appreciate Ruth Rademacker’s desire to preserve that history, and we are thankful that she is providing the funds to help us do so,” said Brad Bainter, vice president for advancement and public services.

Michael Lorenzen, University Libraries dean, added that the history of Brown County is an important part of the regional history collection in the WIU Archives and Special Collections Unit.

“We are truly grateful for this generous gift. This fund will allow us to acquire, preserve, and promote materials documenting the history of west central Illinois, with a special emphasis on Brown County, Mrs. Rademacker’s home place,” Lorenzen added. “Her thoughtful act will allow us to even better develop, archive and make accessible materials from Brown County and the west central region we serve.” ♦



Looser-Flake Scholarship Established at WIU

As the Great Depression was coming to an end, World War II was just beginning and Winston Churchill became Britain's Prime Minister, sisters Dorothy Looser-Flake and Roberta Looser were graduating from Western Illinois University.

The Looser sisters, who were born and raised on a family farm near New Boston Township, came to Western to pursue their education goals. After graduating in 1939, Dorothy taught fifth grade in Rock Island public schools for decades, before retiring in 1966. Roberta completed her degree from WIU in 1940 and began work as an elementary school teacher in Mercer County, and later in the Rock Island public schools until her retirement in 1969. Both women have since passed, but their legacy will live on at Western for years to come thanks to the establishment of the Dorothy Looser-Flake and Roberta Looser Scholarship Endowment by the Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation.

The foundation was created by the Loosers to "advance economic development and further cultural and educational opportunities in Mercer County, IL, with a particular focus on the New Boston Township in Mercer County." It is that Foundation that provided \$50,000 for the creation of the Dorothy Looser-Flake and Roberta Looser Scholarship Endowment at Western.

"It is with great honor and pride that we celebrate the creation of the Dorothy Looser-Flake and Roberta Looser Scholarship Endowment. It truly shows how Western Illinois University has a great tradition of producing alumni who are committed to the excellence of their host communities and regions, and to further supporting educational access and affordability for future Leathernecks to come in the generations ahead," said Joe Rives, vice president for Quad Cities and planning.

The Dorothy Looser-Flake and Roberta Looser Scholarship is available to any Mercer County resident who is enrolled fulltime at Western Illinois University.

"Creating scholarship endowments at local universities like Western Illinois University helps us fulfill Dorothy and Roberta's charge to us - to advance educational opportunities for the people of Mercer County. We hope that these scholarships will help Mercer County residents to get a high quality education close to home, and then stay in the county to keep contributing to their community," shared John A. Slover, Jr., a Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation trustee. "We recognize that it is not only graduating high school seniors who need scholarships, so we made sure that current and non-traditional or returning students were also eligible for the scholarships."

Preference is given to education or agriculture undergraduate students who have demonstrated community service to Mercer County, especially in the New Boston Township. The hope is that those who receive this scholarship will then return to Mercer County to reside after graduating from WIU.

"It's a pleasure working with the trustees of the Looser-Flake Foundation to identify and carry out opportunities that fulfill the legacy of the Looser-Flake sisters. This is one of the core purposes of the Community Foundation: to bring together community needs and the resources to address them," stated Kelly Thompson, vice president of grantmaking and community initiatives at the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend.

"WIU began as a teacher's college, and for decades we have educated the best and brightest students who have gone on to become educators themselves, including Dorothy Looser-Flake and Roberta Looser," added Brad Bainter, vice president for advancement and public services. "Both enjoyed successful careers as educators, and we are grateful that they are sharing some of that success with today's students who will follow in their footsteps." ♦



The Western Challenge: A Record-Breaking Day at Western Illinois University

Leatherneck pride was in full force April 24 as the 24-hour Western Challenge and Purple & Gold Day opened at midnight at Western Illinois University. The Western Challenge 24-hour online giving event's goal was to reach 1,000 donors from midnight to 11:59 p.m. April 24 ... a record-setting 1,071 donors rose to the challenge, donating more than \$133,900.

Gifts ranging from \$5 to \$25,000 rolled in for a variety of departments, programs,



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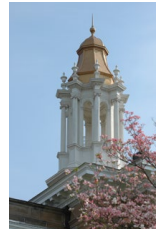
resources, scholarships and special projects,
from the wee hours of the morning to the evening's end.

“The Western Challenge is indicative of the type of support the University receives far and wide from alumni, students, friends, faculty and staff. We cannot thank the 1,071 individuals enough for their incredible generosity and support. I would also like to thank Annual Fund Director Tim Hallinan for leading this charge and Foundation staff for their support, our Alumni Programs staff for their work organizing Purple & Gold Day in conjunction with the challenge, Phil Weiss of UTV for the wonderful videos, University Relations for the promotional and social media efforts, VPC for capturing photos of this great day and to people like JB and so many others who made The Western Challenge a priority and ensured its success,” said Brad Bainter, vice president for advancement and public services. “We came together in the true spirit of the Leathernecks. I could not be more proud to be a member of the Western Illinois University family.”

According to Hallinan, the majority of gifts made during the April 24 challenge were designated for student scholarships.

“This record-setting day further demonstrates to our students that Western is a place with people who truly care about their success,” Hallinan said. “The Leatherneck spirit is strong throughout the world.”

Large-scale challenge gifts came in from a number of donors including Mona Sawyer, Dave and Jackie Thompson, Col. Marinda Coultas-Wood and Kate Nelson, who wished to honor her late husband Ted ‘51, who had a connection with Ray “Rock” Hanson, and her family of WIU graduates, Hallinan added. ◆



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