



CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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Savoring Excellence Honors a Philanthropic Legacy

Clark College Foundation credits a family whose name is synonymous with philanthropy, community, education and entrepreneurship in Southwest Washington.

VANCOUVER, Wash. – Members of the Firstenburg family were recognized for their philanthropic support of students and programs at Clark College Foundation’s annual Savoring Excellence event on Wednesday evening.

Thirty years ago, Ed and Mary Firstenburg first began contributing to Clark College. In 1992, they provided a generous gift to a 2-1 federal matching program called the Title III campaign that was intended to spur private support for community colleges. The result was the establishment of a scholarship endowment that has benefitted nearly 110 students at Clark College.

Ed and Mary believed firmly in Clark College. “Clark College started on a shoestring budget during the Great Depression. For over 75 years, the college has been the main engine for training and educating people in our community,” said Ed Firstenburg in an earlier interview.



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During last night's event, Lisa Gibert, president and CEO of the Clark College Foundation and Clark College President Bob Knight, presented the Firstenberg Foundation with the 2012 Inspirational Leadership for Education Award in memory of Ed and Mary Firstenberg.

"This recognition, considering the passion and interest of Ed and Mary toward Clark College as the economic engine for the community, is a befitting way to celebrate their legacy for the residents of Southwest Washington," said Gibert.

Additionally, a second award – the Presidential Award for Excellence – was presented to family members Bill and Jeanne Firstenberg, Bruce and Diane Firstenberg, and Paul and Joyce Chiles.

Gibert praised Ed and Mary Firstenberg for imparting their philanthropic values and commitment to the community on members of the family.

"Ed and Mary Firstenberg's children, Bill and Jeanne, Bruce and Diane, and Joyce and Paul, have become stalwart champions for Southwest Washington by avidly supporting many worthy causes that promote education, health care, youth, seniors, animals, social justice, music and the arts – just to name a few."

Knight said: "The quality of life in Southwest Washington continues to be enhanced because of the dedication and generosity of these praiseworthy individuals."

Established in 1973, the Clark College Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt public charity. It serves as the fundraising arm of Clark College to support student access to educational



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programs and services. It is nationally recognized for excellence in superior fundraising programs. Savoring Excellence is a yearly event hosted by the Clark College Foundation to honor major contributors to the programs and students of Clark College.

Photos

(Left to right) Bill Firstenburg accepts the 2012 Inspirational Leadership for Education Award on behalf of the Firstenburg Foundation in memory of his parents, Ed and Mary Firstenburg during Clark College Foundation's Savoring Excellence Award. With him are Lisa Gibert, president and CEO of the Clark College Foundation and Clark College President Bob Knight.

(Left to right) Bill and Jeanne Firstenburg accept the Presidential Award for Excellence award from Lisa Gibert, president and CEO of the Clark College Foundation and Clark College President Bob Knight during Clark College Foundation's Savoring Excellence dinner.

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