

Johnston Family Program Endowment



Terry and Lee Ann (Tabor) Johnston share a deep appreciation for the rich opportunities of rural ND living. They both grew up in Devils Lake and chose to remain in the community to raise their family while they built business foundations and community service legacies. Clearly, they appreciate their hometown and believe in giving back to the community they treasure!

Terry and Lee Ann are both graduates of Devils Lake Public School (DLPS) and Lake Region State College. Lee Ann attended Minot State University and Terry attended LRSC and completed his education at UND. They began their career employment at Devils Lake Sioux Manufacturing in nearby Ft. Totten. After 13 years with DLSM, Terry worked for eight years as president of Pugsley's Sandwiches Inc. At this writing, Terry is concluding a 15-year tenure as Devils Lake city administrator.

Managing the home front was Lee Ann's priority when their children were young. But she shares Terry's passion for entrepreneurship, and together they launched several successful businesses. TJ's Pizzas and Subs was built from the ground-up and became their first successful business venture. Later they opened a fitness facility. When the opportunity presented itself, they decided to try their hand in the ice cream business by purchasing the local Dairy Queen. In 2021, after more than 20 years at the Devils Lake Dairy Queen, they expanded to Grand Forks, and purchased two additional Dairy Queen franchises.

Terry and Lee Ann are proud parents of three children -- Alisha, Ashley, and Tory -- all graduates of Devils Lake High School who are now adults, following their own paths.

Family and grandchildren keep the Johnstons busy, and they especially enjoy supporting grandkid endeavors from the sidelines. During the summer months you will find Terry and Lee Ann at the lake or on the golf course whenever they can carve out the time.

As their three children grew to be more independent, Lee Ann found time to become involved in community causes she cared about. She volunteered to help with the College's annual fundraising project, (the Key Event) and then served two terms (six years) on the Community College Foundation's Board of Directors, including two years as its president. Lee Ann earned respect as a passionate and effective advocate for LRSC, promoting and defending the college at meetings with legislators and with Board of Higher Education representatives. She also proved to be a skilled fundraiser through her work at the Key Event and across the community, encouraging investments in scholarships and program support.

Lee Ann is using many of these same skills in her current role as a member of the Devils Lake Public School Board. The Lake Region Community has been the grateful beneficiary of Lee Ann's commitment to strengthening educational opportunities for area students.

We are honored and grateful that Terry and Lee Ann Johnston have established this fund: The Johnston Family Program Endowment. Fittingly, it will support business and entrepreneurial education at Lake Region State College. Once again, Terry and Lee Ann are investing in their community. They believe this gift will help to light the path for others following in their entrepreneurial footsteps.