The plan for the Paul Hoghaug Library Endowment was put into place in 1966 when Fred and Vivian Hoghaug set up an irrevocable trust fund in memory of their son, Paul. Sadly, Paul had lost his life in a hunting accident in 1961 when he was only seventeen years old. The Hoghaug family wished to create a lasting, positive legacy from their tragic loss. Dr. Merrill Berg, president of the college, and the Community College Foundation board of directors, appreciating the significance of this first-ever gift received in the form of an irrevocable trust, insisted that the college library should thereafter be called the Paul Hoghaug Library.

For the next twenty-seven years, the Hoghaug trust fund quietly continued to grow. In 1993, when Fred Hoghaug passed away, the trust, which had reached a value of $160 thousand, was transferred to the Community College Foundation where it continues to grow and provide support each year for the Paul Hoghaug Library.

For Fred and Vivian, investing in a library for students was a fitting tribute to their beloved son, Paul. He was a bright, capable student who also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and water skiing. He loved playing hockey for which he received a varsity letter on the high school team. He was a gifted trumpet player in the City Band where he earned the position of first chair and was often asked to play solo parts.

Academically, Paul was very persistent, receiving accolades for his knowledge of science and an award at the District Science Fair. His leadership skills received recognition when he was selected to attend Boys’ State as a
representative of his school. Paul was also a member of the St. Olaf Boys Choir and was chosen to attend a national Lutheran League Convention in Florida. Paul lived life to the fullest, and he was a joy to his parents and a loving brother to siblings Lynn and Linda.

We are grateful to Fred and Vivian Hoghaug for establishing this important endowment.

We are also indebted to Fred and Vivian for their tireless work to promote the Lake Region and its college. They were here the day the college first opened its doors in 1941, and they helped the college survive many crises throughout its history. Both Fred and Vivian served on the foundation’s board of directors and invested countless hours in many special projects. Fred was a key player in the planning process which led to the decision to launch a campaign for an ambitious Library Expansion Project. He was an effective fundraiser and a generous contributor to that effort.

In January, 1995 the new library was finally ready to receive books, and Vivian gleefully joined the book brigade, pushing grocery carts carrying books from the old library space to the new one. Vivian was also on hand September 19, 1995, to cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the new Paul Hoghaug Library.

In addition to investing in the college library as a tribute to their son, Fred and Vivian established several charitable funds to support a variety of projects. Each fund does special work to help young Lake Region residents acquire knowledge and continue their educational endeavors.

In April 2011, Vivian passed away, but she and Fred will not be forgotten. Instead, their memory lives on through the many ways they passionately supported Lake Region State College.

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About the Library

The Paul Hoghaug Library is home to more than forty thousand volumes and subscribes to four hundred periodicals and eleven daily and seven weekly newspapers. Equipped with comfortable furnishings, the library features state-of-the-art research tools such as ODIN (On-line Dakota Information Network). The Collinson Special Collections Room proudly showcases Lake Region artifacts, manuscripts, and books written by Lake Region authors. The New Horizons computer lab is nearby. The main entrance and beautifully paved parking lot allows easy access for the public. Though the library is designed to serve the needs of students first, the community is always welcome to use the facility.