



For friends and alumni of Lake Region State College

# LRSC Branches

Lake Region State College

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Community College Foundation

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## LRSC is like a diamond *Preparing to celebrate its diamond jubilee*

Like a diamond, LRSC has matured and become more beautiful and valuable through time. Like a diamond, LRSC was created under pressure, and once “unearthed,” LRSC needed experts to cut and polish it to optimum brilliance. Like skilled gemologists, education leaders took a rough rock and transformed it to the glimmering gem that we call LRSC.

Today, Lake Region State College shines brightly as it prepares to celebrate its diamond anniversary, celebrating seventy-five years since its formation in September 1941.

Part of LRSC’s brilliance comes from the lovely “jewels” in its setting—the thousands of students who have entered its doors. These students, are much like diamonds. They arrived at LRSC seeking a transformational education, preparing them to enter the

workforce, or to embark on a career journey, or to build a foundation for additional education. Each student arrived ready to have his or her talents discovered and polished to expose the sparkling gem each can be. College staff and faculty are “gemologists and jewelers,” the professionals who help students discover their facets and polish them to a brighter shine.

It’s fitting that as LRSC prepares to celebrate seventy-five years as an institution of higher education, the diamond is used to symbolize this milestone. And, it’s even more fitting to declare the students who passed through the college on an educational journey are diamonds, as well.

Seventy-five years ago a group of visionary community leaders set out to create educational opportunities for those seeking post-secondary education.

And today, the little college that began as an offshoot of the public school system and eventually transitioned into a position in the North Dakota University System—enduring a few

## LRSC ... the ultimate jewel

name changes along the way—is still going strong and changing lives for the better every day.

We are a prize diamond on the prairie, and we’re seventy-five years young. It’s time to celebrate!

“We want an opportunity to celebrate this milestone in one big way and in numerous other ways,” said Dr. Doug Darling, LRSC president.

The college has set aside July 8-10, 2015, for a large college and community celebration. A variety of events will take place that weekend. “But we’re also going to have a variety of other events throughout the entire 2016 calendar year. From a fun run/walk event, concerts, open houses, and more, we’ll provide opportunities for everyone to help us celebrate this milestone,” Darling continued.

We invite people to check the LRSC website at [www.lrsc.edu](http://www.lrsc.edu) for a listing of events as they become

(Like a diamond, continued on page 3)

## New LRSC Technical Center Named

A local family name now welcomes students and guests to the new Technical Education Center at Lake Region State College.

A gift to LRSC from Renard and Candace Bergstrom and Anne-Marit Bergstrom will

## The building will be named the Bergstrom Technical Center

strengthen and support programs based in the technical education center on the Devils Lake campus. The building will be named the Bergstrom Technical Center.

The name was approved by the State Board of Higher Education at its meeting January 29<sup>th</sup>.

“Lake Region State College is proud to attach the Bergstrom family name to its recently constructed center for technical education,” said LRSC President Doug Darling.

## Bergstrom family history

The Bergstrom family’s involvement with LRSC has been in place since the college opened in 1941. Arthur Bergstrom founded Lake Chevrolet Motor Company which has been owned and operated by the family since. The business was well established when the de-

(Technical center named, continued on page 2)



The LRSC Precision Ag Club has been awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Land O’Lakes Answer Plot® Community Gardens Photo Contest and will attend the Land O’Lakes annual meeting, March 2016. To see what else this energetic group of student volunteers accomplished during this beautiful North Dakota summer, read “Bushels of hope” on page 6.



(Technical center named continued from page 1)

cision was made to create a two-year college in Devils Lake, and Art supported this progressive decision.

William (Bill), son of Art and Marjorie Bergstrom, joined the family business in 1960. Bill and Anne-Marit supported the college in many ways. Bill was instrumental in the growth of the college and served on its first board of trustees.

Through the years, the Bergstrom family has supported the college in many special ways. Anne-Marit (Mrs. Bill Bergstrom) has engaged in multiple fund-raising efforts for the college. These efforts have resulted in many opportunities for the college, including acquisition of the Steinway grand piano which is used on the stage of the Robert Fawcett Auditorium and creation of the Chautauqua Gallery which is dedicated to Mrs. Bergstrom's parents, Leo and Alma Mehus Studness.

In 1991, Bill and Anne-Marit were joined in the family business by their son and daughter-in-law, Renard and Candace, and in 1996, Renard succeeded Bill as CEO. The business and family continue a close working relationship with the college and employ many students each year in work internships.

#### Bergstrom Automotive today

Currently, Bergstrom Automotive has 94 employees. Renard Bergstrom said that of those 94 employees, 39 have taken classes at LRSC, and 15 of them have degrees from LRSC. *"It's a privilege to continue our family support for Lake Region State College. It's had a positive influence on our family, our business, and our community as a whole. We're grateful to the forward thinking people in the past and present who have given tirelessly and selflessly to make it possible for LRSC to flourish as it does today,"* Bergstrom said. *"We believe the future is bright for LRSC and are excited to be able to be part of it."*

The Bergstrom family gift comes in two parts. A generous endowment will be used to strengthen the Automotive Technology program through scholarships and program support.

Funds from a bequest will be used to support priority needs for technical education when it matures. Both parts of the gift were matched by the ND Higher Education Challenge fund.

The Bergstrom family gift was critically important to the success of the Challenge campaign, and it will enable LRSC to provide a level of excellence beyond the base provided by traditional funding sources, said Laurel Goulding, vice president for Advancement. *"The college and its foundation are extremely grateful to the Bergstrom family for their enduring commitment,"* Goulding said.

#### Technical center project

This project had long been at the top of the college's priority list because once again, the college was out of space, renting classrooms off campus. In 2013, North Dakota's legislature funded a \$5.9 million capital project for technical education. It funded a suite of new classrooms, mostly for the nursing program, new mechanical systems, and a touch-up to the exterior of the two older technical buildings which were wrapped into the design. However, no resources were allocated to the needs of the 32,000 square feet of classroom and workshop space inside the two 70s-era buildings. Committed to make the older classrooms as new and technologically advanced as the new ones, LRSC launched a \$2 million fundraising initiative.

LRSC's foundation captured its assigned match of \$1 million. It also claimed \$100,000 from the residual left by other small campuses unable to qualify for their entire allocation.

*"Many generous donors responded to the challenge, and the major gift from the Bergstrom family completed the home stretch for the challenge campaign,"* Goulding said.

*"The match campaign energized donors to invest in LRSC, and essentially in student success,"* President Darling said.

The college cut the ribbon on the new Bergstrom Technical Center, a true state-of-the-art instructional resource, in September 2014. ■

## From the desk of Doug Darling President Lake Region State College



Dear Friends,

We're off to another great academic year. Things have been going at warp speed since the semester started!

Things are flying high – pun intended – with some of our technical programs. The use of unmanned aviation systems has created many opportunities in industry, such as agriculture, law enforcement, wind turbine maintenance, and simulation, all programs at Lake Region State College.

The college's Precision Ag program has been using UAVs, showcasing how they can assist with producer and rancher needs for plant and animal health. The Law Enforcement program also has a UAV component in its curriculum as these machines are used more and more in investigations.

So, it's more than exciting that a UAS industrial park broke ground near Grand Forks Air Force Base earlier this fall. New journeys in aviation through the use of UAVs means new opportunities for many industries and the entire economy.

Unmanned systems have a role in maintaining large structures like wind turbines. EdgeData is a Grand Forks-based company that works on automated condition assessments of wind turbine blades. EdgeData captures, computes, and consumes data in a manner that fits within business processes. The company met with me and Wind Energy Technician Instructor Jay Johnson for an unmanned aerial vehicle inspection of LRSC's 1.6-megawatt wind turbine blades. Representatives from LM Glasfiber, our blade manufacturer, were also present when EdgeData and SkySkopes did the blade inspection. The inspection, aimed at solidifying processes and procedures, was conducted, and a group of students joined the activity as observers, with Jay and his students positioning the blades for best results.

It's amazing the way the UAS industry has expanded in so little time, and there are so many things yet to do with UAS.

And LRSC is right in the heart of it, diving into new technology and enhancing curriculum to meet workforce needs without losing the personal touch with customers, educational partners, and most importantly, students.

Interesting times are ahead. Stay tuned!

Doug Darling, Ph.D.



## Paramedic to Nurse ... the dynamic duo

Throughout North Dakota and other states on the northern plains, a strong need exists for both nurses and paramedics. A recent grant from the Dakota Medical Foundation will allow LRSC to address that very need.

The grant will support development of a bridge curriculum for certified/licensed paramedics to obtain their Associate Degree (RN) licenses in the state of North Dakota. Classes begin in January 2016. Offering the same opportunities for registered nurses to become paramedics may be explored in the future.

The benefit of a paramedic obtaining RN licensure is significant for rural communities, said Karen Clementich, coordinator of the LRSC Nursing Program. *"Being a paramedic can be stressful and challenging, but it's also rewarding. However, with a nursing license there are more opportunities to be promoted in the field of health care,"* she said. *"Because of this, it is a great idea to consider a paramedic-to-RN bridge pro-*

*gram to improve one's career prospects."*

Kate Sunaert, manager of the Paramedic-to-Nurse program added that these programs are tailored specifically for paramedics and, therefore, offer a fast-track path to a nursing career. *"Registered nurses and licensed paramedics often work in emergency rooms and intensive care units as they are knowledgeable in highly acute and complex patient care management,"* Sunaert said.

A paramedic with a nursing degree can work in emergency rooms, as a flight nurse, and more. Alternately, a registered nurse who becomes a licensed paramedic will have an opportunity to further expose himself/herself to acute care and emergency situations, Sunaert said. *"The purpose of this program is to create more dual-purpose nurses and paramedics who can assist with the nursing and paramedic shortage in rural*

*North Dakota. Rural communities will benefit greatly as these dual-trained nurses and paramedics will have at least two years of experience prior to their further education in either role,"* explains Sunaert.

Paramedic-to-RN bridge programs will take around three semesters for comple-

tion, and the double licensure will allow an individual to work as either an RN or paramedic, or both! Those interested in the bridge program should contact

Sunaert at (800) 443-1313, ext. 21676 or email Katherine.Sunaert@LRSC.edu.

Dakota Medical Foundation leads initiatives to measurably improve health and access to healthcare for people of the region. DMF and the Impact Foundation jointly host Giving Hearts Day and the impactgiveback.org website that has processed more than \$8 million for charities since 2008. For more information, see dakmed.org. ■

## Dual roles address needs in rural areas

## Library launches financial education program

### *Better budgeting is a topic from which all can benefit*

Many students finance some portion of their college education, so it only makes sense that a college would help students and the general public be more aware of the positive impacts of budgeting. Now, thanks to a grant, LRSC will be able to address this important topic.

The Paul Hoghaug Library at LRSC will create better financial and investor information and educational programming with the launch of Smart investing@your library®. A \$77,250 grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association was awarded to LRSC. The college's library was one of 21 nationwide chosen through a competitive process to receive this award which will help to build the capacity of LRSC's library to provide effective, unbiased financial and investor education to the community. With the funding, the Paul Hoghaug Library will offer new services and resources for students and community members, such as budgeting and financial literacy programs for students. The grant also will allow hands-on marketing experience for students.

*"It's an honor to be tapped for this generous grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation,"* said Celeste Ertelt, Paul Hoghaug librarian. *"The funding will make*

*an array of free, unbiased financial information programs possible in our community. Smart investing@your library® gives us the chance to innovate. We're excited by the prospect of collaborating in new ways with trusted community partners to deliver information that helps people build a brighter financial future."*

LRSC will lead a personal financial management and investor education initiative serving college audiences and the broader community in northeastern North Dakota. The audiences comprising the project include dual-credit, full-time, part-time, military, and veteran students; military families residing in the area; and patrons of public libraries in the region. In addition to LRSC, project partners include the LRSC center at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Nelson/Ramsey County Veterans Services, the Northeast Education Services Cooperative, NDSU Extension Service/Ramsey County, and the Citizens Community Credit Union.

Smart investing@your library® is a partnership between the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. The program supports public and community college libraries across the country in their efforts to meet financial education needs at the local level. ■

## Hello, up there!



LRSC Wind Energy students have a new way to rope the wind and keep turbines running smoothly. The program added outdoor ropes training to the curriculum so students are trained on wind turbine inspection inside and out. Using ropes helps with inspection of blades and identifies other external issues that may require maintenance.

(Like a diamond, continued from page 1)

known. We also are looking for suggested activities you would like to see take place in 2016 to help celebrate our seventy-five years.

### An innovative beginning

Back in the spring of 1940, Superintendent of Devils Lake Schools F.H. Gilliland and the Devils Lake school board discussed the law permitting school districts to operate a "department" of junior college work in cities of 10,000 or larger. Devils Lake wasn't at that population threshold, but in early 1941, the Devils Lake School Board passed a resolution favoring a bill that would revise law to allow establishment of colleges in cities of over 5,000. Senator G.F. Drew introduced Senate Bill 83 addressing this, and it passed.

City voters then went to the polls and overwhelmingly approved establishment of a college in Devils Lake. During the summer of 1941, Gilliland had classrooms in the Pershing Building readied, developed curriculum, wrote and produced a catalog, and hired H.L. Woll as dean and other teachers from the area who would be needed.

On September 22, 1941, the college opened its doors with 38 students. Since that date, a large

number of students have entered the college's doors. Some were students of Lake Region Junior College, Lake Region Community College, or the University of North Dakota-Lake Region.

From young high school graduates starting a bachelor's degree or auto mechanic career, to the newly single, middle-aged mother looking to enhance job opportunities in the workplace, to the soldier returning home looking to start a new career, the numbers of lives touched by this institution is uncountable.

All of those students, faculty, staff, and volunteers are pieces of the Lake Region story, and we want to hear about them.

So, we want to hear from you. Where are our Lake Region students and graduates today? What are they doing now? What is a favorite memory of attending Lake Region? Who was an influential staff or faculty member? How did LRSC impact you?

We want to hear from you, whether you went to Lake Region State College yourself or had a child or relative attend.

Information can be sent to Erin.Wood@LRSC.edu. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at our Diamond Jubilee, July 8-10, 2016. ■



## New endowments ... a gift that lives forever!

**A**n endowment is a wonderful gift that lasts forever! More than 120 endowments have been established by individuals or families wishing to support scholarships or programs at LRSC. The majority of these provide scholarships, but a growing number of individuals are directing their gifts to be used to support programs, library services, or other special priorities. A gift of \$15,000 or larger is required to establish a new endowment.

We believe two incentives for making gifts to endowments have impacted the large number of new endowment gifts received by the foundation. 1) Gifts to an endowment are approved by the North Dakota Higher Ed Challenge Match, and 2) endowment gifts of \$5,000 or greater from North Dakota taxpayers also qualify for the North Dakota Tax Credit which returns 40 percent of a gift to the taxpayer in the form of a tax credit. Once the funds have been invested for a year, the cash earnings are awarded annually to support the scholarship or project of the donor's choice. The following endowments are new:

■ **Terry Aronson Memorial Endowment**—The Terry Aronson Memorial Endowment was established to provide scholarships to those who have personal obstacles which they have had to overcome. Terry Aronson, a local insurance agent, believed that Lake Region State College helps to provide the necessary avenues for success for all students.

■ **Dean and Heidi Bittner Family Endowment**—Students in health care, agriculture, and wind energy programs will benefit from support the Dean and Heidi Bittner Family Endowment provides. Dean, a Lake Region farmer, and Heidi, a local physician, understand the dynamics of health care delivery and business operations. This gift assists LRSC's work to prepare students for careers in these critical fields.

■ **James and Linda Gibbens Endowment**—Jim and Linda Gibbens are advocates for rural communities, for small colleges, and for entrepreneurship. Their endowment will provide new resources for LRSC faculty seeking to strengthen their programs with innovative teaching resources.

■ **Armen and Connie Hanson Endowment**—Involvement in the community is important to Armen and Connie Hanson. Realizing the importance of Lake Region State College to the Lake Region community, this endowment will help support and strengthen technology in the agricultural, auto, and health care programs at LRSC.

■ **James and Virginia LaBarre Endowment**—Both Jim and Virginia attended Lake Region State College and used their education as a foundation for advanced degrees and productive careers. The scholarship endowment they established will assist students pursuing careers in business, agri-business, and/or technology.

■ **Glenn and Donna Lannoye Family Endowment**—Growing up in the Lake Region, Glenn and Donna Lannoye believe that education combined with personal commitment and willingness to serve is the key to success. Their family established this endowment to promote and support leadership programs and activities at LRSC.

■ **Mary E. Lundy Program Endowment**—Encouraging wellness has always been a point of passion for Mary Lundy, who operates a physical therapy practice in Devils Lake. The endowed fund she established will provide resources each year to strengthen the Fitness Trainer Technician program at LRSC.

■ **Michael and Daniel Tufte Endowment**—Colette Tufte established this endowment to honor the memory of her sons, Michael and Daniel, and to remember her husband, Dennis. In fact, it was Dennis who first expressed interest in such a gift before his passing. The Tufte Endowment will provide scholarship support for exemplary students who are North Dakota residents.

## The LRSC engine did it!

**S**ometimes I imagine LRSC to be the "little engine that could." That little red train engine from my children's story book just kept chugging and chugging. Over and over, the engine kept saying, "*I think I can, I think I can...*" until finally, against great odds, it pulled a big heavy load to the top of the hill.

When the North Dakota Higher Ed Challenge Match was announced, I was excited, but worried, too, about trying to pull such a "heavy load." How could LRSC and its foundation raise \$2 million dollars in an 18-month time window? How could we do that when, in our best fundraising year we raised just under \$600,000?

Others worried as well. Campus leaders, the foundation's board of directors, and friends of the college all were grateful for the match opportunity but worried that the hill might be too high. Still, everybody agreed we needed to try.

So, like that little engine, we told ourselves, "*We think we can, we think we can.*" Slowly, gradually, the momentum built. One success lead to the next.

One friend of the college encouraged another. Large gifts and small began to arrive. It started to look like maybe we might come close. Then it began to look like we might actually do it. And then it happened ... we reached the \$2 million mark!

At the campaign's end, LRSC and its foundation reported raising \$2.2 million of match-eligible funds, and we received \$1.1 million in matching dollars. LRSC was allowed to claim more match dollars than initially designated because not all North Dakota colleges reached their goals. Unclaimed remainders were awarded to schools that exceeded their goals.

We are still basking in the success of this exciting challenge. Throughout the 2015 legislative session, LRSC was often called upon to tell its story. We became known as the "little campus that did it," and our story played an important role in the legislature's decision to fund the ND Higher Ed Challenge Match for another 18-month campaign.

Credit for this remarkable success goes to LRSC's many friends and stake-

holders. Four hundred and fifty individuals and businesses contributed to the campaign. Their gifts created new endowments for scholarship and program support and strengthened many established endowments. Gifts were directed to support the new Bergstrom Technical Education Center. Several private foundations also invested in the campaign with gifts to support financial literacy, nursing education, and peace officer training. In the end, the campaign was successful because so many people acted on their belief that education makes a difference. They helped the engine climb the hill. One by one, they declared, "*I think I can,*" and together ... we did it!

Now we are facing a new challenge ... raise \$2 million by December 31, 2016. Can we do it? Yes, I think we can. Once again, the hill is high and our little engine will need to pull hard. But this time we are better prepared and more confident. We will build on our success, knowing that the LRSC engine is stronger and more able to change lives as it creates better tomorrows. ■

## We're planning a celebration

**I**n the grand scheme of history, 75 years is a blink of an eye, but for Lake Region State College it's a lifetime! The college is gearing up to celebrate its colorful 75-year history and the many milestones that mark its progress.

I am excited to be working with a team to plan 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Planning gives permission to reflect about just how far this college has come. It also provides opportunity to appreciate the work and sacrifice of so many to assure the college's continuance. We will be searching for personal stories to share during the celebrations. Your insights are welcome!

We also look forward to the next 75 years and beyond. LRSC has distinguished itself with its ability to be nimble when necessary, effectively building partnerships and identifying education/training needs.

LRSC's future is bright! And once again, the college has an opportunity to assure its promise through investments that

look to the future. The recently re-authorized North Dakota Higher Ed Challenge Match became available July 1, 2015, and ends December 31, 2016. This is the second time the state has funded a challenge match for North Dakota's higher education institutions. We met the challenge during the first round (See *The LRSC engine did it!* above) Can we do it again? I believe the answer is YES!

We CAN meet the new challenge because LRSC lives its motto, "We change lives!" Alumni and friends of the college who believe in the life-changing power of a good education are invited to invest in the future

with a gift that grows larger with matching funds. To learn more about how you can make a gift that provides keys to opportunities for bright futures, please give me a call, contact a foundation board member, or call the Foundation Office. Together we can build the foundation for the next 75 years of education excellence at LRSC! ■



CCF Executive Director  
Laurel Goulding



# Diamonds are Forever

## Annual Key Event was a picture-perfect success!

Guests at the annual Key Event stepped into the spotlight on October 16, 2015, and raised \$85,000 to support scholarships and special projects at Lake Region State College.

The red carpet event, sponsored by the Community College Foundation, was a fabulous affair with more than 300 people in attendance. The evening began with a social, silent auction bidding, and swingin' entertainment. A delicious dinner was served, and during a brief program, guests learned about some of the recent accomplishments of the college. New inductees into the LRSC Hall of Fame—Bob Leever and the Class of 1941—were introduced, retiring board members were recognized, and new board members were elected. Attendees also received the annual report of the Community College Foundation which lists donors and shows that our fiscal house is in good order.

The highlight of the evening was the Opportunities Auction. More than 350 items were donated to the auction by many generous businesses and individuals. Silent and live auction bidding was enthusiastic, and guests went home with artwork, diamonds, furniture ... even a little, red convertible!

Key Event planner "My Fair Lady" Carol Leever declared the evening a "marvelous success" and invites everyone to mark October 21, 2016, on their calendars for the next Key Event. A theme has not yet been selected, but there is no doubt that it will be yet another fabulous affair!

This was the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Key Event which also served as the official kick-off for the college's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration will continue through December 2016, with a special weekend of festivities taking place next summer, July 8-10, 2016. Stay tuned for more details! ■



## An excellent training opportunity

### LRSC Associate Degree Nursing students participate in staged scenario

A trauma scenario was staged at LRSC on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Associate Degree Nursing students, Mercy Hospital ER staff, Devils Lake Fire Department, Valley Med Flight, and others took part in the training.

The scenario involved four "victims" involved in a head-on collision. Two of the victims were live actors, and two were high-definition simulator mannequins.

LRSC's nursing simulation labs were used as an emergency room for the exercise.

During the exercise, one of the mannequins was flown in via helicopter, assessed, diagnosed, and transferred out via helicopter. The other patients were assessed, diagnosed, and either prepared for transfer or to stay at the current medical facility.

The activity gave Nursing program student nurses a hands-on application to utilize the skills and knowledge they have learned. Other agencies had the opportunity to perform as team units, clearing and landing the helicopter and working with multiple medical personnel in an emergency situation. ■



Photo courtesy of Kyle Martin, UND Rural Health

## New to Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame was unveiled in June of 1991 as part of the college's fiftieth anniversary. Planners were seeking a way to publicly appreciate those who have invested their time and energy, talents, and resources in the school over the years. This year, we were pleased to induct the following into the LRS Hall of Fame:

■ **Robert Leever**—If we had them, Bob Leever would get a "perfect attendance" pin for his annual participation in the Key Event! Bob helped us host the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual event, and again, Leever Foods was one of the most generous sponsors. We're grateful for his patient support for Carol who has, for all these years, served as the chairperson of the Key Event planning committee. The Key Event has raised more than \$1.1 million for scholarships and other worthy projects for LRSC.

Supporting the Key Event is only one of many commitments Bob has made to LRSC. Through their business, Leever Foods, Inc., Bob and Carol Leever established and continue to invest in a scholarship endowment. They are also regular sponsors for a great variety of college activities, from tailgating and booster events to sponsorships for student organizations such as the Playmakers Drama Club, DECA, Phi Beta Lambda, Student Senate, and others. Bob and Carol helped with renovation of the Robert Fawcett Auditorium and then provided the lead gift to build the Leever Welcome Center. Bob has served on the foundation's budget and investments committee and has been a listening post and advisor for the college's presidents.

If you asked Bob why he is so committed to the college, he would likely explain that he grew up watching his father, Norm Leever, make similar

investments. Thank you, Bob, for continuing the Leever tradition of investing in education to create a brighter tomorrow.

■ **Class of 1941**—The Key Event marked the beginning of a year-long celebration to commemorate the college's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The college opened its doors on September 22, 1941. Classes were held in the Pershing Building located at Central High School. The Pershing Building was destroyed by fire in January of 1988.

The opening of a junior college in Devils Lake was the culmination of several years of planning by school and community leaders who were energized by the vision of F. H. Gilliland, superintendent of Devils Lake Public Schools. Legislative funding was available to school districts wishing to launch a two-year college. The Devils Lake School Board voted enthusiastically to proceed. H. L. Woll was hired to be a professor and dean, and teachers from throughout the region were recruited.

Midway through that first year, Pearl Harbor was bombed, the United States declared war, and enrollment plummeted. But college advocates persisted, and post-secondary education opportunities have been available in the Lake Region ever since.

We were pleased to salute LRSC's first class and were delighted to recognize Amy Pulst Mosbaek as a representative of the class of 1941.

## Bequests ... the easiest way to leave a legacy

Planning a bequest is one of the easiest strategies to leave this world a little bit better than you found it. An advisor will help you include language in your will or trust specifying that a gift be made to a charity that carries out work that you value. Appropriately worded and presented before the end of 2016, a bequest will qualify to be matched by the North Dakota Challenge Fund. Please contact Laurel.Goulding@LRSC.edu or call 701-662-1513 or stop in for a chat over a cup of coffee. ■



## 50 shades of green

Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle for a reason ... it has every shade of green imaginable spanning its countryside. But there is more to Ireland than its beautiful landscape. Ireland is a country rich in history, a country where knights battled for territory, King Arthur ruled Camelot, and unexplained stone circles dot the green landscape. Now Lake Region residents have a chance to experience the Emerald Isle. Travelers on LRSC's Study Abroad trip, taking place spring 2016, will discover for themselves just how beautiful the British Isles are.

This year, the group will spend four days in Ireland, one in Wales, and two in England, from Stratford to Oxford, to London said Teresa Tande, associate professor of English and Humanities and tour coordinator. *"From the simplicity of a medieval village in Ireland, to the splendor of Windsor Castle in England, and other ancient castles and colleges in between, this year's trip focuses on different aspects of literary tradition—Celtic mythology, King Arthur legends, the Book of Kells, and of course, Shakespeare,"* she said.

You can choose to have an extension to travel to Stonehenge and Bath and have some free time in London. Tentative dates for the trip are May 16-24. Although the trip provides an opportunity for LRSC students to study abroad, it's also an opportunity for LRSC to showcase its commitment to lifelong learning by inviting community members to join, too.

As always, the trip is through EF Travel, so the cost covers everything—flight, lodging, transportation and admissions, breakfasts, and some evening meals. Travelers need only pay for lunches and souvenirs.

For more information, contact Teresa.Tande@LRSC.edu or Kristi.Hernandez@LRSC.edu. ■

## Bushels of hope

A project by LRSC ag students harvested bushels of hope and instilled in them the value of community service.

Students of the Precision Ag Club spent the warm North Dakota spring and summer growing a garden that benefited the Hope Center food pantry which serves the needs of the Devils Lake community.

Early this spring, Winfield Ag Solutions and Land O'Lakes Foundation supported the club to purchase supplies to grow a variety of produce that would eventually be donated to the Hope Center.

So, near the end of May, students and staff rolled up their sleeves and planted a wide variety of seeds in the Answer Plot Community Garden. They tended the garden during the growing season, weeding and watching for any pests or plant health issues. Other young adults helped out with garden duties due to Precision Ag student involvement in farms, agronomy centers, and dealerships during the summer. Students from the

local Harmony House and the LRSC volleyball players also tended to the gardens.

*"This project is a great opportunity for students. They are gaining hands-on knowledge of planting, soils, and growing conditions while making a positive impact in the community,"* said Preston Sundeen, assistant director of the Dakota Precision Ag Center.

The Precision Ag Club was started during the past school year. Sundeen says that the club was created to be active in the community. He says they plan to continue to participate in projects like this, travel, and tour various agricultural plants and equipment businesses as well as be active in the industry in ways that otherwise may not be as achievable.

*"Our mission is to be involved in the community,"* he said. *"We have over a dozen students that really want to make this an active club and volunteer their time in the Lake Region, as well as visit and see different parts of North Dakota's agricultural industries."* ■

## New degree program aims to improve communication

Lake Region State College has hosted the only sign language interpreting program in the state to educate trained interpreters and prepare them for employment in various fields. Now, a new degree program, recently approved by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, is designed to teach more people how to communicate with people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The new Bachelor of Applied Science in Interpreting and Sign Language Studies is a collaborative effort among Minot State University (MSU), Lake Region State College (LRSC) in Devils Lake, and the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NDSD/RCDHH). A grant from the Bush Foundation provided the funds needed to develop the program.

*"This degree program lays a foundation to prepare professional American Sign Language interpreters to work*

*in a variety of settings,"* said Greg Sampson, Department of Special Education chair at MSU. *"This new program will positively impact children and their families in the region."*

*"At North Dakota School for the Deaf we recognize the need for more highly trained interpreters,"* said Lilia Bakken, communications coordinator for NDSD. Bakken has worked at NDSD for nearly thirty-five years, and she has been involved with sign language interpreting her entire tenure.

*"We considered LRSC to be a perfect host for an interpreter training program since both of our schools were located in the same community,"* said Bakken.

NDSD offered to help LRSC by providing their program with site opportunities for field experience work and internships.

To learn more about this new opportunity, please contact ASL and Interpreting Studies Program Coordinator Lisa Ginther at Lisa.Ginther@lrsc.edu or (701) 662-1649. ■

## Nursing students lead state pass rates

Nursing students from LRSC are leading the state in national licensing exam pass rates.

In the second quarter of 2015, Associate Degree Nurse graduates (RNs) posted a perfect 100-percent pass rate. All graduates taking the National Council Licensure Examination passed on their first attempt, said Karen Clementich, coordinator of the LRSC Nursing program. The LRSC Practical Nurse program at all sites has also maintained a 100-percent pass rate for the past five years, Clementich added.

*"Enthusiastic and dedicated faculty within the Dakota Nursing Program impact our students,"* said Julie Traynor, director of the Dakota Nursing Program. *"They dive into innovative processes, adapt to new technology quickly, and use new techniques such as simulation to enhance student education."*

LRSC offers Practical Nurse and Associate Degree Nurse programming at its home campus and in Mayville. Practical Nurse education also is delivered in Grand Forks. ■



Ben Morris

Ben Morris was one of the students selected to represent the class of 2015 at LRSC's graduation this past May. His story of an opportunity found at LRSC mirrors many other individual stories.

*"See, I've been in and out of college since 2008. I never really stuck with anything after I injured my shoulder playing baseball my first year at Miles City Community College,"* he said. However, he heard of an opportunity at LRSC and was determined he wasn't going to mess

## Opportunity found ...

this one up. *"I had another chance to play collegiate baseball and get a quality education."*

He was impressed immediately at the level of care, concern, and accountability staff and instructors had for their students. The community also was very welcoming, Ben said.

*"Through athletics I was able to get in touch with the community. I coached a few teams and was an umpire and official for many Park Board events this past year. The relationships I've built with the kids and their parents are ones that I cherish. It feels good to be looked up to and know that I am being watched within the community. This keeps me on the right track by making me concentrate and keeps me grounded. It also helped me decide on a career with youth by becoming a teacher."*

Ben completed an internship and earned a degree in the Fitness Trainer

Technician program and an Associate in Arts. He is now a student in Mayville State University's education program offered at LRSC while working as a personal trainer to help pay for that extended education.

*"Lake Region State College has helped me so much more than simple words can describe,"* Ben says. *"I came here with the thought of playing collegiate baseball again, but with my final game played, I'm not satisfied with a 2-year degree. I'll leave LRSC wanting more in regards to my education. This is the first time in my life that I'm comfortable saying I've moved on from being an athlete. I now have a career to look forward to and to expand on. I owe everything to this college and its staff and faculty. It didn't matter if it was the president or the custodian or the many friends I have made; I know that everyone at LRSC has influenced me in some way."* ■





**A** Samaritan's Feet shoe distribution event took place this fall. Above, athletes from various sports washed the feet of about 200 children and fitted them with new pairs of shoes.

Samaritan's Feet was founded by LRSC graduate Manny Ohonme. Over 30 years ago, as a young Nigerian boy, he received his first pair of shoes ... It changed his life! We want to inspire hope through the gift of shoes and the act of washing the feet of those who need it most. ■

## Royals and Lady Royals basketball schedule

11/18 MW...	Concordia JV	6:00
11/21 .. M....	home vs. Gillette College	7:00
11/21 .. w ....	home vs. Northern State JV	6:00
11/22 .. M....	home vs. Cankdeska Cikana CC	5:00
11/27 .. M....	Gillette College	TBA
11/28 .. M....	TBA	TBA
12/1 .. MW...	home vs. Concordia JV	6:30
12/3 .... W ....	DI #7 Salt Lake CC	12:00 MST
12/4 .... W ....	DI #4 Southern Idaho	6:00 MST
12/5 .... W ....	Northwest Wyoming CC	12:00 MST
12/6 .... M....	home vs. Dakota County Tech	2:00
12/8 .. MW...	Jamestown JV	12:00
12/9 .. MW...	home vs. Turtle Mountain CC	6:30
12/13 .. M....	Mayville State JV	3:00
12/29 .. W ....	Scottsdale CC	4:00 MST
12/30 .. W ....	D2 RV-Mesa CC	4:00 MST
12/31 .. W ....	Chandler Gilbert CC	4:45 MST
1/4 ..... M....	Cankdeska Cikana CC	8:00
1/7 .... MW...	Williston State	6:00
1/10 .. MW...	home vs. Dawson CC	2:00
1/13 .. MW...	home vs. NDSCS	6:30
1/19 .... W ....	Northern State JV	6:30
1/20 .. MW...	home vs. United Tribes	6:30
1/25 .. MW...	Dakota College at Bottineau	6:00
1/28 .. MW...	Bismarck State	6:00
1/31 .. MW...	home vs. Williston State	2:00
2/4 .... MW...	Dawson CC	6:00 MST
2/7 .... MW...	NDSCS	2:00
2/11 .. MW...	home vs. Bismarck State	6:30
2/14 .. MW...	United Tribes CC	2:00
2/17 .. MW...	home vs. Dakota College-Bottineau	6:30
2/21 .. MW...	Region XIII playoffs	TBA
2/24 .. MW...	Region XIII playoffs	TBA
TBA .. MW...	Region XIII championship	TBA

## Golfers earn berths at national tournament

**I**t's a first for the LRSC golf program. The college will have two golfers representing the college at the national tournament next spring.

Eric Gulicks placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Region 13 tournament held earlier this summer in Minnesota. He earned the second-lowest score in LRSC history with a 154 and is the first golfer from the LRSC men's team to qualify for the national tournament. Gulicks is from Finley, North Dakota.

Kelsey Schlenk earned a consecutive berth to the national tournament after placing third in the Region 13 tournament. Schlenk is a native of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. ■



**T**he LRSC Royals Booster Club opened its 2015-2016 season with new bylaws and membership rules. Since 2012, the college has added volleyball, baseball, golf, and fastpitch softball to its previous men's and women's basketball. This exceptional growth has brought more students to campus as well as additional financial considerations.

The new membership dues will go directly toward continued promotion and support of all all athletics. To become a Level 1 member, dues are \$20. Levels 2 through 4 require increasing dues levels (\$50-\$150), and Level 5, \$2,000, provides a lifetime membership. Season passes to all games begin at Level 3, and Level 4 provides membership for a family.

LRSC could not ask to be represented by better student athletes and loyal fans who follow their progress and cheer them on. Please consider becoming a Royals Booster Club member and give back to those athletes who have given so much to us. Contact Athletic Director Danny Mertens at [Daniel.Mertens@LRSC.edu](mailto:Daniel.Mertens@LRSC.edu) or (701) 662-1654. ■

## In memory

**A** memorial gift is a lasting tribute and a meaningful way to honor loved ones. Since July 1, 2014, the Community College Foundation has received gifts in memory of the following:

Betty Aaker, Conrad W. Adahl, Norma Alexander, Adam Allmaras, Joe Anderson, Patricia May Anderson, Neil Anderson, Floyd Austin, Joseph Bachmeier, Maurice W. Barton, Allan A. Bauer, John R. Beckstrand, Venoie Bergrud, Margaret T. Bischoff, Irene Bjerke, Bradley Blazer, Steven E. Bower, Joe Brandt, Dalton C. Braniff, David Bring, Marvel Brustad, Colleen Bryn, Colleen M. Bunge, John Burckhard, Terrance Michael Burckhard, Kim Bylin, Conald Calderwood, Doris C. Carlson, Florence W. Carpenter, Bonnie Clementich, Douglas Corbett, Joan Cowger, James Crane, Beatrice Cudworth, Fred Cudworth, Kristopher Michael Curtis, Gladys Dahl, Doralee Dale, Duane R. Darling, Shirley Davidson, Hilda DeArton, Dolly Devlin, Carl Duchscher, Kenneth J. Dubois, Carl Dyste, Bernice Eberle, John Eberle, Michael Egeland, Jared Eisenzimmer, Kathy Eisenzimmer, Omer Ellingson, John Elsparger, Arlene Erickson, Carol Erickson, Cliff Erickson, Helene Erickson, Mitchell Felchle, Mildred Flaig, Orpha Foreng, Robert Fox, Robert D. Freije, Eileen Fugle, Gene Gage, Shirley Greene, Les Greves, Angeline R. Hager, Harold Halvorson, Mary Tess Haman, Michael F. Hamen, Faith Rae Hanson, Linda Hanson, Ronald Hausmann, Daniel R. Heisler, Halie Hendrickson, Helene Hendrickson, Curtis Herman, Sr., Bonny Lou Hoime-Dykhoff, Betty Holth, Brian L. Holtz, Delmer B. Howes, Robert Hurdalbrink, Dale J. Jaeger, Loren Jechort, Raymond Jemtrud, Aurelie E. Jerome, Douglas Johnson, Elroy A. Johnson, Teresa Jorgenson, Don Klein, Phyllis Y. Knoke, Peter Kraft, Sr., Marjorie J. Krokum, Gloria Kubat, Carol Kurtz, Deborah Rae Kurtz, Gwenn LaFleur, David Lang, Margaret Lang, Mary Lange, Blake Larson, Charolette Larson, JoAnn M. Lee, Richard "Dick" Leet, Joanne Harriet Lehmann, LaVerne "Lovey"

Leier, Magdalena "Madge" Leier, Patrick Liere, Viola Lillehaugen, Thelma Lindstrom, Shirley Liudahl, Caryl A. Loehr, Edith Lillehaugen Lovestrom, Gloria Lysne, Gregory Maier, June Martinson, Royce Earl Marshall, Lawrence Matejcek, Michael Matthews, Jasmine Dawn McCanna, Theresa Herda McCaughey, Loretta McLaughlin, Clifford McKain, Patricia McKay, Carol McLaurin, David "Gravy" McPhail, Margaret Leier Meier, Darlene Joy Merkel, Clarence A. Miller, Jim Miller, Toby J. Miller, Frieda Mittelsteadt, Dean Mohr, Dorothy Moshier, Bonnie Jean Muehlberg, Lois K. Myers, Arlene Nienhuis, James G. "Pee Wee" Nixon, William "Bill" Novak, Arvid J. Olson, Carol Olson, Janice Rae Onerheim, Carol E. Paulsen, Leon Paulson, Donald Pershke, Elise Peterson, James Peterson, Alvin Peyerl, Roy Pfeifer, Heinrich Remer, Arthur Rice, Mary Lou Robinson, Richard Roed, John Rushfeldt, Frances Sagsveen, Dr. John Sawchuk, Eva Scherbenske, Kyle Jay Schlittenhart, John Schmidt, Jerome Scholand, Thomas R. Schuler, Casey Schultz, Dorene Schwan, Edward G. Senger, Elvin D. Severtson, D. Jane Shepard, Mike Slag, Cordelia G. Slusser, Lloyd Slusser, Hadley Smith, Harvey Solberg, Roberta Soper, Gerald Spaeth, Carroll Spidahl, Douglas B. Stack, Ronald Stammen, Rosemary Steffan, Curtis Steinhau, Verna Strom, Gordon E. Svercl, Glen Symons, Edward A. Thompson, Lyda Thompson, Leon Timboe, Eustean E. Tollefson, Agnes Toso, Duane S. Tweeten, Dale Urness, Norma Lee Vaagen, Victoria T. Wakefield, Terry Walsh, Karen Weaver, Wilton Webster, Robert L. Weed, Ione E. Werner, Larry Werner, Oswald Westgard, Karl R. Westphal, Robert Whitney, Sr., Darlene Woldseth, Betty L. Wolf, Howard Wrigley, Thomas Edward Yager, Rachel Kelly Yahna, Bernie Zacher, and Laddie Zahradka. ■

About this newsletter

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> issue of Branches, a project of Lake Region State College and its foundation, the Lake Region Community College Foundation of Devils Lake ND. This twice-a-year newsletter helps us stay in touch with our friends and alumni. We need your help finding members of the LRSC family who are not yet on our mailing list. Please give us a call at (701) 662-1520 or 1800-443-1313. You may also write to LRSC. foundation@LRSC.edu.

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Make plans now to join us next summer  
for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of  
Lake Region State College!

Festivities  
July 8-10, 2016  
Other events to be  
held throughout year.  
Check DL Chamber  
calendar at  
devilslakend.com  
or LRSC.edu



Celebrating 75 years of education and community.

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Parents: If this is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains permanent residence at your home, kindly notify the Community College Foundation of a new address.

