

Chuck and Sherry Jerome Family Endowment

The endowment established by Chuck and Sherry (Reslock) Jerome is built on a deeply rooted commitment to the Lake Region and its college. Both Chuck and Sherry grew up in families that operated small businesses in the community. They developed a great appreciation for the positive impact a college provides for the business environment and for families who struggle to provide educational opportunities for their children.

Sherry and her siblings all attended Lake Region State College. *"It was just understood that the local college would be our first step after high school,"* Sherry explained. Although Chuck went straight to university after high school, he suggested "that's probably not the best plan for everybody" and felt that attending community college is a great option for many.

Regardless of their personal experiences, Chuck and Sherry agreed that the presence of a college in a community is very positive—it strengthens the business climate and helps to create a healthy community. This belief was core to their decision to establish an endowed fund through the Community College Foundation to support Lake Region State College.

The Jeromes asked that this gift be used to enhance music opportunities for students and to honor Sherry's interest in music. Sherry noted that her decision to attend the "junior college" enabled her to continue to study piano performance with Alma Mehus Studness, an internationally acclaimed pianist who lived in Devils Lake and coached advanced students. Opportunities to pursue music learning were



extremely positive and life-changing for Sherry, who eventually became a piano teacher herself. Throughout her life, Sherry worked with many local organizations to encourage music and theater experiences.

The Chuck and Sherry Jerome Family Endowment will be used to encourage, support, and honor music students and music learning opportunities at LRSC. ✦