

IMPACT

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PROFILE: Juan Carmona


Since he was 18, Juan Carmona has dedicated his life to providing for his family while putting himself through college at Elgin Community College. It's something he wouldn't be able to do without the help of the ECC Foundation.

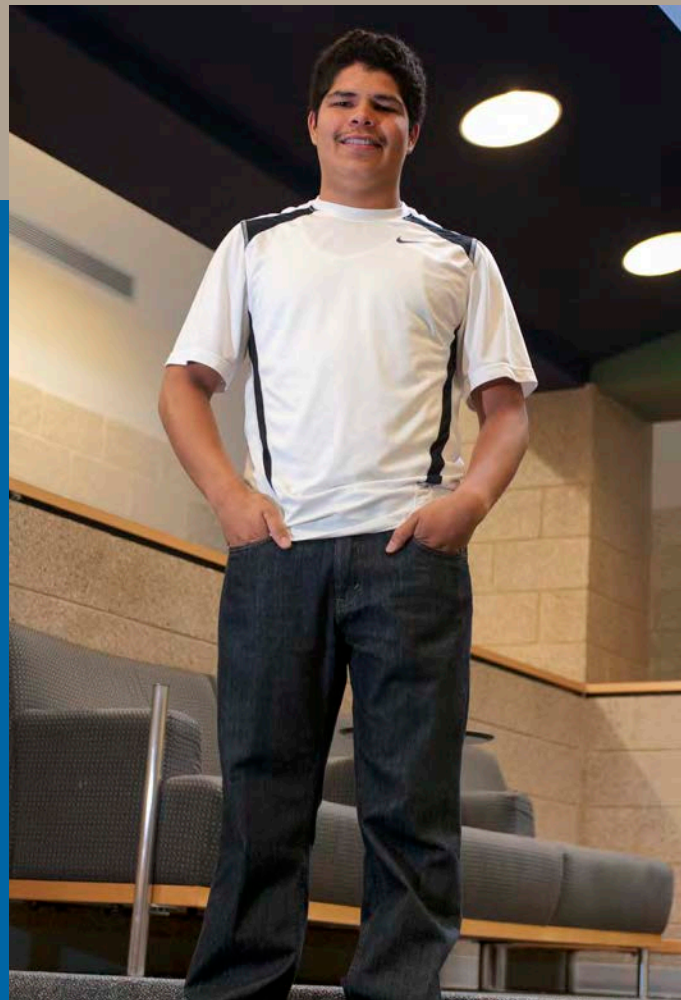
The Mary Willig Family Foundation scholarship helps Carmona, of Hanover Park, as he completes a second associate degree in energy management. In addition to school, he works full time and is the only breadwinner in his family since his father's death. Although the scholarship allows him to devote more of his resources to his family, it also motivates him to finish school.

"I wasn't thinking I was going to get it, but I was surprised when I did," he says. "I'm thankful."

The scholarship is just one aspect of the support he's received at ECC. After enrolling in ECC's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Program in 2008, he found a manufacturing job through his participation in the SkillsUSA competition. He still has that job today.

Carmona earned his first associate degree in HVACR in 2011. He hopes to finish an associate degree in energy management in 2014. Eventually he wants to transfer to a four-year college or university to study mechanical engineering.

"ECC and the foundation have helped me keep going," says Carmona. "My family needs my support. Being here allows me to stay with them and continue my education." 



Spartan Legacy Society Welcomes New Members

Trinka and Don Waters have a passion for the Elgin community. While they weren't born and raised here, Elgin has been their home for more than 35 years. "We've both always felt the only way you can make a difference is to get involved, and we wanted to teach the values of volunteerism and altruism to our daughters," says Don.

Some of their activities include Trinka's 24 years with Community Crisis Center, first as a volunteer and then as the assistant director. One of her many accomplishments was to help create a partnership between ECC's Dental Program and Community Crisis Center so families in need could receive free dental care. She is also the recipient of a D. Ray Wilson Volunteer Service Award from Judson University in 2008. Don has served on the Elgin City Council; as president of the local Kiwanis Club; on the Golden Corridor Economic Development Council and National Council for Resource Development; as vice president of the board of the local United Way; as a former member and current emeritus member of the ECC Foundation Board of Directors; and currently as co-founder and co-facilitator of the Elgin Area Leadership Academy program of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce.

Early in Don's career, he served as a vice president for Elgin Community College and was asked to explore the creation of a foundation after the college received a grant for that purpose.

"There was never enough money to meet student needs, so the creation of the ECC Foundation was a way to address that problem," he says.

As part of Trinka and Don's commitment to the college, they decided to make a gift of life insurance. He recalls, "For us, it was a way for our current gifts to have a more significant impact because the relatively small cost of the premium will eventually result in a much larger gift to the foundation. It was also a unique idea that looks toward the future, and we hoped it would help other supporters realize there are many ways to assist the foundation and ECC's students."

Life insurance can be a very flexible and effective means to support your favorite program or create an endowed scholarship at ECC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Don and Trinka Waters

Aspiring Nursing Student Assisted Through Banking Legacy

Alyssa Higdon is driven toward a future in nursing.

"I want to make the world a healthier place, and I am studying hard in hopes of becoming an excellent nurse," remarks Higdon as she prepares for her next lab assessment.

An Elgin High School graduate, Higdon has successfully navigated through all of the prerequisite classes and has been accepted to ECC's Nursing Program in the fall of 2013. In recognition of her strong academic performance at ECC and her interest in nursing, Higdon is a recipient

of the **EFS Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund for Healthcare Professionals.**

Higdon isn't the only one who is confident about her promising future. According to anatomy and physiology professor Elizabeth Becker, "Alyssa is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring edition of ECC Foundation's quarterly newsletter, *Impact*. And what a tremendous impact you are making at ECC.

Join me in welcoming emeritus director Don Waters, EdD, and his wife Trinka Waters as official members of the Spartan Legacy Society. The gift they made toward student scholarship a decade ago through their estate planning will have lasting impact for generations of Elgin Community College students.

The 15th Annual Founders' Day Brunch in January was a wonderful gathering and acknowledgement of community leadership, educational achievement, and ECC's mission as seen through the eyes of our students. Please enjoy the photos and recap of our day.

As you may have seen in the media, ECC has received national acclaim in recent months that is cause for celebration. ECC became the first college in the state of Illinois to be awarded Leader College status by the Achieving the Dream network. Additionally, in February the college received the coveted Bellwether Award at the 2013 Community College Futures Assembly in recognition for our Alliance for College Readiness initiative. Likened to the Heisman Trophy in college football, the award focuses on cutting-edge, trendsetting programs that other colleges might find worthy of replicating.

I am genuinely grateful for your investment of time and resources in our students and programs. I hope the stories in this issue will bring to life the extraordinary work we are doing together through the gift of education.

All my best,



Katherine Sawyer
Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement
and ECC Foundation



"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."

—Winston Churchill



SPARTAN LEGACY WELCOMES NEW MEMBER Continued from page 1

There are several ways to make a gift of life insurance:

- Name the ECC Foundation as a secondary or final beneficiary on an existing policy.
- Name the ECC Foundation as owner of a policy that no longer requires premium payments.
- Name the ECC Foundation as owner of a policy that still has premiums being paid; you agree to make an annual tax-deductible gift to the foundation equal to the premium payment amount.
- Purchase a new policy and name the ECC Foundation as owner and beneficiary; you agree to make an annual tax-deductible gift to the foundation equal to the premium payment amount.

The couple recently met with ECC Foundation staff to determine the name and purpose for their fund. "Our goal is to help students through scholarship," says Trinka. To make the funds as accessible as possible to students, only two criteria were important: financial need and that the recipients' coursework be credit-earning. Because the fund will be endowed, the **Trinka and Don Waters Scholarship** will provide much-needed support for future generations of ECC students.

"We've both always felt the only way you can make a difference is to get involved, and we wanted to teach the values of volunteerism and altruism to our daughters.... Our goal is to help students through scholarship."

—Don Waters

In recognition of Trinka and Don's commitment to ECC through their estate plans, they have joined the **Spartan Legacy Society**, a group established to recognize those individuals who have included and notified the foundation of their estate planning arrangements.

Don and Trinka plan to enjoy life for a long time to come but know that, through their forethought and careful planning, they are leaving a lasting legacy to the students of Elgin Community College.

Planned giving provides many creative strategies that may allow you to make a gift far beyond your expectations. To learn more, contact the ECC Foundation at 847-214-7377. ☎

ASPIRING NURSING STUDENTS Continued from page 1

bright and motivated, comes prepared, and her work is on time and on target. In addition, I've found Alyssa to be friendly and compassionate—excellent qualities for someone wanting to enter the health professions."

The EFS Foundation has supported students at Elgin Community College for many years. Its recent gift continues this long tradition of providing scholarship funds to students enrolled in healthcare professions as well as the college's renowned culinary program. As an organization, its cumulative giving to the college

through the ECC Foundation qualifies the EFS Foundation for the Century Circle of donors with giving over \$100,000.

"Our board believes deeply in the power of education and is proud to have provided support to college students in our community," says Ursula Wilson, EFS Foundation executive director.

Higdon expects to graduate in spring 2015. ☎

2013 Premier Sponsor



The ECC Foundation launches new sponsorship level in 2013.

The Premier Sponsor level enables supporters of both of the foundation's major annual events to make one sponsorship commitment in any given 12-month period and receive top-level benefits which include:

- Recognition and promotion at all ECC Foundation events throughout a 12-month period.
- Table for eight at Founders' Day Brunch (January).
- One foursome for the Golf Classic outing (June).
- Premier Sponsor listing and full-page recognition in both event programs.

For additional information regarding the Premier Sponsor benefits package, contact Sheri Lacy, manager of annual giving and scholarships, at 847-214-7596. ☎

"I am grateful to be a part of a college and community that encourages educational growth and rewards educational achievements."

ECC Foundation scholarship recipient

New Scholarships for Students in Business, Health Professions, and Building K

The foundation opened three new scholarships this past fall thanks to the generosity of some amazing supporters.

The Tom Harwood Memorial Endowed Scholarship will support students who aspire to a degree in business and have financial need. The endowment, which was established by a donor who prefers to remain anonymous, will produce its first student award in fall 2014.

The Health Careers Endowed Scholarship, initiated by Teena and Dan Bergsma, will support students enrolled in any of the health career disciplines who are U.S. citizens and have financial need. While the Bergsmas are building their endowment, a matching gift from Dan's employer will begin to fund student awards in fall 2013.

The DLA Architects THINK [about architecture] Scholarship was established by Bruce Dahlquist and his associates at DLA Architects, the firm that designed Building K on ECC's campus. The scholarship will support ECC students who utilize this facility as their primary



DLA Architects team

classroom space and have an educational plan in place. Recipients must have financial need and are asked to share how the building contributes to their learning environment. The scholarship will be open for award in fall 2013.

Thank you to these special donors and all who choose to express their values by assisting children and adults in our community through the gift of scholarship at Elgin Community College.

Our annual Scholarship Appreciation

Reception, held on April 2, 2013, celebrates student recipients and the generosity of those who have supported their aspirations and achievement over this past year. If you are the founding donor of an ECC Foundation scholarship or provide support to an existing scholarship each year, we hope you'll join us in the spring of 2014 to meet students who are benefactors of your investments.

Scholarship Recipient Profile: Amy King

After spending 16 years as a paramedic, Amy King was ready for a change. She wanted to pursue a career that focused more on the diagnostic approach to patient care, which led her to enroll in the radiography program at Elgin Community College.

King knew that going back to school would require a lot of personal sacrifice, but she was up for the challenge. Before starting school, she sat down with her husband to discuss their finances, which led them to eliminate all unnecessary expenses from their budget. She also quit her job, but soon realized she would need additional financial support to continue her education.

She turned to the ECC Foundation for assistance, and it paid off. Last year, she was named a recipient of the Joe Neal Scholarship Award. The \$2,500 scholarship could not have come at a better time. King was able to buy scrubs for class and fuel for traveling to clinical sites. She also was able to pay for fees for state tests, extra books, and other school-related items.

"The expenses can be overwhelming," King says. "It's quite a bit of money, and it's difficult to meet those needs without supplemental income. Scholarship money makes it possible."

In May, King will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree in radiography. She hopes to start a

career as a radiographer. She remains a certified paramedic.



November Event Inspires Giving

Dinner and Dickens provided the perfect backdrop for the most recent Purses with Purpose women's giving circle event. Held in November at the Spartan Terrace Restaurant, the evening featured a wonderful meal prepared and served by ECC students and a holiday-themed program presented by Elliot Engel, PhD.

Over 55 guests enjoyed Engel's remarks on how Charles Dickens changed the way we view Christmas. Through excerpts from "A Christmas Carol" and research based on the period when the book was published, Engel showed how Dickens could be credited with the vision of a white Christmas, the popularity of greeting cards, and cozy holiday traditions.

Additionally, guests heard Alexandra Dumoulin, a current ECC scholarship recipient, talk about being part of a long line of ECC graduates including her parents, several aunts and uncles, as well as her grandmother, who was an ECC instructor for nearly 30 years. She thanked everyone who supports scholarships

at ECC, helping students accomplish their dreams.

The mission of Purses with Purpose is to empower and inspire women and girls to seek opportunities to achieve their potential through education. Funds raised through membership in Purses are used to provide scholarships to women in need.

Plan to join Purses members and friends for their next event, "It's in the Bag" After Hours, on Thursday, April 18, at Elgin Country Club. For more information, please contact the ECC Foundation at 847-214-7377.



Elliot Engel, PhD, presenter



Carolyn Kirk-Likou, Purses with Purpose Steering Committee chair



Mary and Glen Peterson

Inaugural Members of Purses With Purpose

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Reverend Sue E. Allen | Carolyn Kirk-Likou |
| Carol Broeker | Luann Lamp |
| Betsy Cappas | Ellie MacKinney |
| Merrie Derderian | Caren Nickelsen |
| Sharon Fisher-Larson | Mary Peterson |
| Carol Graeff | Sue Rakow |
| Linda Hefferin, EdD | Toya Randall |
| Claire Johannesen | Katherine Sawyer |
| Cheri Lee Lewis | Mary Jo Sheehy |

Friends of Purses with Purpose

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Monica Bucek | Sheri Lacy |
| Sally Callahan | Rachel Neville |
| Frances Channon | Sandy Penkava |
| Donor Club of Elgin | David Sam, PhD, JD |



Members of Purses with Purpose select the Purses scholarship recipients each year.



This year's selection process will take place on Monday, June 24.

To become a member and assist in the selection process, contact the ECC Foundation at 847-214-7377.

15th Annual Founders' Day Brunch

ANNUAL CELEBRATION ENCOURAGES DREAMERS, RECOGNIZES LEADERS

"ECC has been an oasis in the desert."

—Charmaine McAllister, scholarship recipient

PHOTOS ON PAGES 6 & 7

1. David Sam, PhD, JD, president of Elgin Community College, and Robert McBride, EdD, ECC Board of Trustees chair, flank the 2013 Founders' Day Brunch Lasting Impact Awardees (from left to right): Don Waters, EdD, Velma Sept, Dan Fox, Mary Camacho, and Thomas Anderson.

2. Phyllis Folarin, EdD, event chair and ECC Foundation board member (on far left) and Katherine Sawyer (far right) pose with 2012–2013 ECC Foundation scholarship recipients (from left to right): Alexandra Porcelli, Sarah Cramer, Tania Gonzalez, Adil Tajwar, Maria Lira, Lenard Oliva, Amy King, Eduardo Hernandez, and Sandra Hoston.

3. Phyllis Folarin, EdD, embraces Charmaine McAllister, 2012–2013 ECC Foundation scholarship recipient and guest speaker.

4. Caren Nickelsen, ECC Foundation board chair, offers closing remarks.

5. Premier Sponsor Kluber, Inc.'s table guests.

6. Robert McBride, EdD, presents the Distinguished Friend of Education Award to the Fox Valley Building and Construction Trades Council. Scott Roscoe, council president, accepts award on behalf of the council.

7. Shawn Kluber, past award recipient and ECC Foundation board member, presenting the Exceptional Friend of the ECC Foundation Award to Brett Lundstrom, Immediate Past President, ECC Foundation.

The Elgin Community College Foundation's Annual Founders' Day Brunch brings ECC faculty and staff, community leaders, and students together for a common purpose: to help make dreams come true.

Tania Gonzalez, of Elgin, was one of 217 guests who attended this year's event. Gonzalez, who wants to become a preschool teacher, says the foundation is making it easier for her to reach her goals.

"I would not be at ECC if the foundation hadn't given me an opportunity," she says. "With the help I received through scholarship money, I am able to make my dreams come true."

The brunch, in its 15th year, also raises awareness about the need for student financial support and the role scholarships play in fostering student success. The foundation raised more than \$45,000 at this year's event.

Charmaine McAllister, a vocalist and ECC student, serenaded guests before giving a

heartfelt speech about how a series of life-altering events led her to ECC.

"ECC has been an oasis in the desert," McAllister says. "Financial investments have assisted me in laying a new foundation. I have benefitted greatly."

The annual affair also recognizes distinguished alumni, sponsors, outstanding leadership and service, and those who provide exceptional support to the college. Gloria Johnston, PhD, received the Distinguished Alumni Award; the Fox Valley Building and Construction Trades Council received the Elgin Community College Friend of Education Award; and Brett Lundstrom received the Exceptional Friend of the Elgin Community College Foundation Award.

Thomas S. Anderson, Mary G. Camacho, Dan Fox, Velma Sept, and Donald E. Waters, EdD, each received a 2013 Lasting Impact Award.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

15th Annual Founders' Day Brunch Sponsors

The Elgin Community College Foundation is grateful for the support of all who contributed to the success of the 15th Annual Founders' Day Brunch. Together, we are improving our region and the lives of our students.

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Three for ECC



2013 ECC Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Gloria Johnston, PhD

Elgin Community College was the catalyst for Gloria Johnston, PhD, to become a leader in education.

"I often wondered what I would do if I didn't attend ECC," says Johnston, of San Diego. "My teachers were very encouraging and supportive."

Johnston was honored with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award during the Founders' Day Brunch in January.

Not bad for a self-described "trailer park kid" from Iowa who graduated from ECC as an adult student in 1976. Johnston recalls how ECC faculty and staff aided in her success by keeping her focused on her studies, recognizing her duties to her young children, and finding scholarships to help her finish her studies at ECC and Northern Illinois University.

After ECC, Johnston worked for District U-46 as a bilingual teacher, director of bilingual education, and principal before returning to California in 1988.

Once she received her PhD, she served as a district superintendent in several school districts before working as an independent consultant for her own company and as a contractor for other educational consulting companies.

Throughout her career, Johnston's main focus was improving student success and closing the achievement gap for low-income and racial and ethnic minority students. Since retiring from education, she continues to coach, mentor, and facilitate the work of superintendents, school boards, and other educational groups in California and China.

Johnston says she was humbled and honored to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. She continues to monitor ECC's educational progress, praising their inclusion as an Achieving the Dream Leader College.

"ECC's commitment to high persistence and completion rates and closing



Diane Stredde, ECC Alumni Relations Coordinator presents 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award to Gloria Johnston, PhD

the achievement gap is a shining example of how high-performing community colleges become essential contributors to the health and welfare of communities across our nation," she says. "That's something the community should be proud of."

Call for Nominations

The Elgin Community College Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award recognizes the accomplishments of a notable ECC alum who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in his or her chosen profession and made a positive impact on the community.

Nominations are accepted online at elgin.edu/eccalumni. For more information about the nomination deadline and criteria process, contact the ECC Alumni Relations office at 847-214-7746 or visit elgin.edu/eccalumni.

New Staff Joins Foundation



Monica Bucek

principal gift programs supporting scholarships and ECC initiatives. Additionally, she serves as the lead staff partner for the Purses with Purpose giving circle, empowering women through the gift of education.

Bucek comes to ECC from Naperville Area Humane Society where she worked as its

Elgin Community College welcomes Monica Bucek to the ECC Foundation staff. In her role as director of major and planned gifts, Bucek will oversee the foundation's

development director. Before relocating to Elgin from Missouri with her husband, Scott, she served as the regional director of development and major gifts at Washington University in St. Louis. She also worked in fundraising as a development officer at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Bucek holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business and economics from Illinois College in Jacksonville. She currently serves as treasurer of the West Suburban Philanthropic Network (WSPN), an organization that provides guidance, networking opportunities, and education to those who serve non-profit organizations, in the western suburbs. She has over 20 years of experience in non-profit management and fundraising.

Spotlight on ECC Foundation Board Members

Bob Werderich



Bob Werderich

Armed with a passion to teach, \$1,000, two lawn chairs, and a coffee table, Bob Werderich started his aviation business from the trunk of his car. Now president of the Illinois Aviation Academy, he makes it a priority to give back to the community that inspired him along the way.

Werderich graduated from Elgin High School, where he later returned to teach science and coach football. In 1994, he became an aviation instructor at Elgin Community College before founding the Illinois Aviation Academy a year later. In 2011, Werderich became a director on the ECC Foundation board.

"In addition to being a certified teacher, my experience as a coach allowed me

to see and meet a lot of people who had little opportunity," he says. "If afforded the opportunity, they could do great things. I joined the foundation because I wanted to help facilitate those opportunities."

Werderich earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Concordia University. He spent 13 years as a corporate airline pilot on the VIP detail, which served celebrities and politicians, including U.S. President Barack Obama. He is married to Donna Werderich, EdD, a professor at Northern Illinois University. They live in St. Charles with their son, Samuel.

Eric Larson, EdD



Eric Larson, EdD

Eric Larson started his administrative career at Elgin Community College in 1977. Originally hired as the dean of business, Larson worked in various capacities at the college, including administrator of ECC's Fountain Square campus in downtown Elgin. He also helped develop the nursing, health, physical education, culinary arts, and adult continuing education programs.

After spending two decades at ECC, Larson went on to serve as president of Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Wisconsin, from 1997 until 2010. Upon his retirement, Larson moved back to Elgin where he continues to play an active role in higher education. He currently serves as a director on the Elgin Community

College Foundation board, which was started during his tenure.

"In the 20 years I was at the college, I watched the foundation grow from the beginning," Larson says. "I realized what it can do for students in assisting them financially to help them as they reach their goals."

Larson has spent more than 40 years working in higher education. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business from Franklin Pierce University, a Master of Business Administration degree from Syracuse University, and an EdD from Northern Illinois University. He lives in Elgin's Del Webb community with his wife Sharon Fisher-Larson, an ECC graduate who worked at the college for 33 years.

Save the Date

15th Annual Golf Classic ECC FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, June 17, 2013
Prairie Landing Golf Club
West Chicago, IL

Registration at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch at 11 a.m.

Shotgun golf tee-off at noon.

Dinner, live auction, and awards at 6 p.m.



Proceeds benefit the ECC Foundation Resources for Excellence Annual Fund providing immediate support for the areas of greatest need.



To register and learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit elgin.edu/golfclassic or contact the ECC Foundation at 847-214-7377 or foundation@elgin.edu.

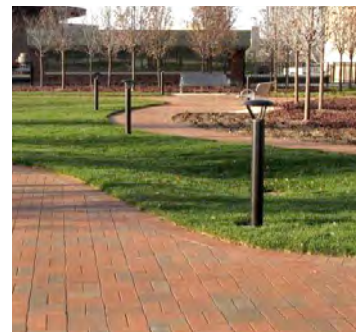
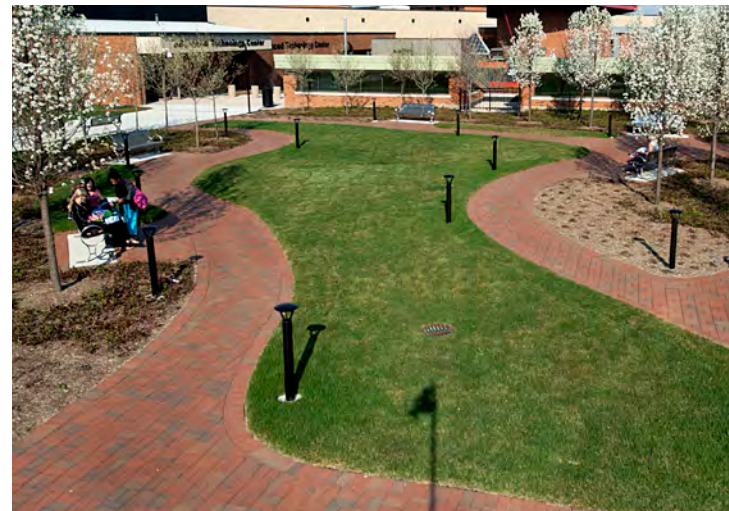
"Pathway to Knowledge"

Brick Dedication Ceremony

MAY 7, 2013

The ECC Alumni Association will hold its second "Pathway to Knowledge" Brick Dedication Ceremony at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, in the second floor corridor of Building B adjacent to the library courtyard. This year, 20 additional bricks will be added to the "Pathway to Knowledge" in the courtyard outside of the beautiful Renner Academic Library and Learning Resources. If you have purchased a named brick, we invite you to join us.

If you would like to commemorate your time at ECC or honor someone special, an engraved brick will leave a lasting impression for years to come. Orders must have been placed by Friday, March 22, 2013, to be installed for the May dedication ceremony. Contact the ECC Alumni Relations office for more information, or place an order at ecalumni@elgin.edu or 847-214-7746.



"Because of you, no one can step on me as I take one step forward to my future goals in life."

—Aljon

ECC Foundation Annual Report Available Online

The report is an annual review of the foundation's accomplishments and fiscal status and is included as part of the college's 2012 *Report to the Community*. Service to students and community is an ongoing theme of this publication as accomplishments are placed within the frame of the college's efforts to improve

student success and help students achieve their dreams.

The 2012 ECC Foundation Annual Report is available online at elgin.edu/communityreport.



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