BCCC Building Christened Wallace/Eakes

The Beaufort County Community College Board of Trustees and its Foundation Board of Directors hosted a ceremony and reception on Thursday, July 11, to honor Doris Wallace Eakes by naming the College’s Learning Resource Center the Wallace/Eakes building. Approximately 60 people gathered under the eaves of what was once called “building 5” to thank Mrs. Eakes for her generosity to the school.

Last year, on the same date, Mrs. Eakes stepped forward to make the largest donation to the BCCC Foundation in its 16-year history. She did this through the Wallace/Eakes Charitable Lead Trust (CLT) as well as her Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). The CLT provides an annual income to BCCC of at least $12,800, which goes entirely for scholarships. The CRT is a multimillion-dollar trust fund, of which BCCC will receive 8% upon its maturity. This will eventually endow the Wallace/Eakes scholarships in perpetuity. Currently, the Wallace/Eakes scholarship program at BCCC provides eight annual awards to students pursuing degrees in nursing, business, or trades.

As Dr. Charles Boyette, President of the BCCC Foundation Board of Directors stated at the event, “Certainly, a gift like this deserved more than a pat on the back. That is why the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors at Beaufort County Community College felt that naming a building after the Wallace/Eakes families was not only appropriate, but necessary.”

Dr. Boyette told the audience, “If the Wallace/Eakes trust grows as predicted, her gift will be worth roughly 1.92 million dollars for the College’s Foundation. Gifts of this magnitude mean that the College and its Foundation can aspire to goals like providing scholarships to all community college bound high school students in its service area. Imagine what an impact this could have on our region.”

Sandra Edwards, Chairperson of the Allied Health Division at BCCC, commented, “Nursing is a difficult course of study and scholarships of this size make it possible for our students to focus more on their studies than on making ends meet. Now more than ever these scholarships are needed. The demand for medical personnel is at an all time high.

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