

Free Estate-Planning Seminar

Diane E. Sherrill, a Southwestern Community College graduate and local attorney, will present an estate-planning seminar at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 29, in Room 102D of the Burrell Building on SCC's Jackson Campus.

The seminar entitled "Is A Will Enough?" is free of charge and will provide participants with a comprehensive view of wills, will substitutes and trusts.

"We will discuss how each is handled during your life and upon your death so that you will know how to choose what best fits you and should be included in your estate plan," said Sherrill, who is also a member of the SCC Foundation's Board of Directors. Health care directives, powers of at-

torney and other areas of concern such as Medicaid, VA benefits, taxation and charitable gifting will also be discussed.

Attendees will be provided with a free worksheet for use after the seminar in gathering the personal, financial and other information necessary to start estate planning.

Attendance at the seminar and completion of the worksheet prior to an individual meeting with Sherrill will entitle participants to a free estate-planning consultation. A complimentary light lunch will be provided.

"We were thrilled with the turnout for Diane's first presentation on this topic a few months ago," said Brett Woods, Director of the SCC

Set for **May 29**

Foundation. "We know there are more people in the community interested in learning about estate planning, and this is a perfect opportunity for them."

For more information and to RSVP, contact Denise Waltz at denisew@wnctrustlawyer.com.



Message from the President

Dr. Don Tomas

Back in late April, I had an opportunity to meet with one of the most-energized groups on this campus.

Our SCC Foundation Faculty and Staff Advisory Council, chaired by Dr. Mark Ellison, has continued to gain momentum since its formation more than three years ago.

Just in the past year, this committee has assisted Brett Woods, Director of the SCC Foundation, in the following key initiatives that ultimately benefit our students, alumni and communities:

- Launched, accepted nominations and made a successful recommendation for our inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award, which you can read more about inside this newsletter.
- Helped plan and provided multiple volunteers for our most-successful Gala ever.
- Continued to encourage our colleagues and coworkers to support our students through the annual faculty staff fundraising campaign.



Dr. Tomas, middle/back, stands with members of the Faculty Staff Advisory Council, including from left: Dr. Mark Ellison, Savannah Wells, Lisa Sizemore, Sheryl Monroe, Kathy Posey, Susan Cain, Brett Woods, Erin McCully and Jennie Ashlock

After tossing around ideas for future fundraising efforts with this group, I walked away from our meeting inspired and impressed by the members' selfless enthusiasm for supporting our students.

Their positive energy is precisely what has made our college such a wonderful place to work, and it's a huge reason why we've been changing lives here for nearly 55 years.

Five NEW Board Members

The Foundation Board affirmed 5 new Board members at their January meeting:



Brenda Oliver Holt
Retired Surgical Nurse
Former Mayor of Sylva



Gail Debnam
Broker/Agent
Western Carolina Properties



Howard Allman
SCC Alum
Owner, Howard Allman
Nationwide Insurance



Terri McElroy
President & CEO
Balsam West



Kim Albritton
Vice President & General Manager
Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

Record Year for Scholarships!

We have over \$165,000 to award for scholarships in the 2019-2020 academic year. The deadline for scholarship applications was April 26, and we will be able to award 93 scholarships this year.

Consider this for a moment: In 2012, we awarded only \$33,000 in scholarships to 24 recipients.

Additionally, the current academic year (2018-19), we awarded more than \$23,000 to New Century Scholar students attending SCC.

We're continuing to gain momentum and anticipate helping even more students next year.

Newest scholarship recipient:



Mikel Laws

2018-2019 recipient of the James Therlo Herron Memorial Scholarship and New Century Scholar

Bio:

- 2018-2019 recipient of the James Therlo Herron Memorial Scholarship and New Century Scholar
- Will graduate this May with an associate degree in Civil Engineering/Surveying
- Graduated from Swain County High School in 2017.
- While attending classes at SCC, Mikel also works part-time at Tuckasegee Land Surveying and is currently interning with the NCDOT for the spring semester.
- He attends Cold Springs Baptist Church and enjoys playing banjo and singing with local band, Charleston Township. Mikel plans to transfer to Western Carolina University upon graduation from SCC.

Distinguished Alumni Award



EMS graduate Kyle Dowling



It's only been six years since Kyle Dowling earned his Emergency Medical Science associate degree from Southwestern Community College, but he's already compiled a lifetime of achievements.

Within two years of graduation, he was elevated to the role of supervisor and training officer for Harris Regional Hospital's EMS Department. He's also earned his bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University as well as National Registry Paramedic, Critical Care Paramedic and Flight Paramedic certifications – along with more than a dozen other credentials.

He's certified to offer emergency care in two other states (Virginia and Georgia) all while earning the respect and esteem of former instructors, colleagues and his own supervisors.

Based on those accomplishments and his continued engagement with SCC, Dowling has received Southwestern's inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award. He'll be honored at SCC's graduation ceremonies on May 18.

"We were extremely impressed by the quality and achievements of all the nominees, particularly considering this is the first year we've offered this award," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President. "Our selection committee had several strong candidates from which to choose, but Kyle's nomination ultimately stood out.

I could not be more proud of this young man and all the success he's attained so early in his career. We have no doubt he'll continue to impact our communities in positive ways for many years to come."

Even with all the academic credentials and professional accomplishments, Dowling remains unwaveringly focused on helping the next patient in his care.

"Every day, I have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life," Dowling said. "The program at SCC wasn't easy, but it had me ready for the job on Day One.

"When I applied for my current position at Harris EMS," Dowling added, "my cover letter contained the following statement: 'A firm education from a stellar, accredited institution has laid the foundation upon which I have built my professional career.' Without SCC, many of my accomplishments would not have occurred."

As winner of SCC's Distinguished Alumni award, Dowling will receive an award plaque and also have his name listed along with all future winners on a separate plaque to be displayed prominently on Southwestern's Jackson Campus.

SCC's award was established as part of an effort to engage alumni and to showcase all the ways the college's graduates impact Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties, the Qualla Boundary and the

surrounding region. The award was initiated by the SCC Foundation, and the selection committee was chaired by Dr. Mark Ellison, SCC's Director of Enrollment Management.

"I am truly grateful to our Foundation Faculty and Staff Advisory Council, which worked hard under Dr. Ellison's leadership to make this selection," said Brett Woods, Director of the SCC Foundation. "Every day, I am impressed by the way our college touches lives throughout – and beyond – our service area. One of our top priorities is reaching out to outstanding alumni like Kyle and the other nominees so that they know how proud we are of their accomplishments and all the ways they benefit the communities we serve."

Eric Hester, Southwestern's EMS Program Coordinator, nominated Dowling for the honor.

"While a student here, Kyle was one of only seven students in my 18 years to maintain a 4.0 GPA all the way through our program," Hester said. "In our career field, we very often encounter people in some of the most-terrifying moments of their lives. If ever someone in my family needs emergency medical services, Kyle is exactly the type of professional I would want to respond to that call."

Student Emergency Fund

Number of students we have helped this academic year: **15**



Total amount given: **\$2,875**



Faculty/Staff Mini Grant

Pam Smith (Paralegal Technology Program Coordinator) and Wendy Buchanan (Nursing Program Coordinator) were awarded faculty mini grants. Pam received \$1500 and Wendy received \$500. Following are explanations of how they plan to use the funding.

Paralegal

The funding will go toward providing bookshelves on which newly acquired law books can be stored.

In Pam's words: "It is essential that Paralegal students are familiar with the different sources of law maintained in book form. The Paralegal Program has the opportunity to receive many, many volumes of legal periodicals for its students."

Holt Library is discontinuing its subscriptions to the legal volumes,

allowing the Program to house these books in the classroom. There are a total of 36 bookshelves, with five shelves each of books coming to the Paralegal Program. Without shelves, the books would just stay in stacks on the classroom floor. The program will also be receiving additional donated books that are being held off-campus.

Nursing

The money will be used to fund a simulation conference for three nursing instructors. International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning is holding a conference in Raleigh in June 2020.

In Wendy's words: "The need to stay informed on how we can use simulation as supplement lab experience or replacement for clinical hours is vitally important."

Save the Date!

BOOTS
Blue Jeans
& Bling

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, Sept. 7
Harrah's
CHEROKEE
CASINO RESORT

Southwestern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
www.southwesterncc.edu/gala