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for helping us reach our **\$1 million** goal for  
scholarships through the Student Success Campaign!

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SCC completes the  
*'March to a Million'*

Southwestern Community College's annual Bluegrass, Blue Jeans & Bling gala is always a celebration of students and scholarships.

This year, it mixed in a little history.

Before the night was over on Sept. 16, streamers soared over the crowd of college supporters who'd gathered to help push the SCC Foundation across the finish line in its "March to a Million" effort.

Dr. Don Tomas, president of SCC, announced around 9:15 p.m. that silent auction sales had pushed the Student Success Campaign total over the \$1 million mark, giving the college its first seven-figure endowment to be used primarily for scholarships.

"This truly has been a community effort," Dr. Tomas said. "Rather than just having a handful of large donations, we've literally had hundreds of different individuals, organizations and businesses step forward to support this campaign. These donors believe in SCC, and – most importantly – they believe in our students."

Launched in 2013 with the help of a U.S. Department of Education challenge grant, the Student Success Campaign aims to bridge the gap between scholarship need and availability at SCC.

"Before the Student Success Campaign, SCC's largest single endowment was \$338,641 – a

figure that's actually quite impressive for a school Southwestern's size," said Charles Wolfe, chairman of the Student Success Campaign. "Thanks to so many wonderful people in our community, we've taken scholarship support to a whole new level."

Back in 2012, the SCC Foundation only had enough resources to award scholarships to 32 students who qualified.

This year, the number of scholarship recipients increased to 69.

"Now that we've reached the million-dollar goal, we'll be able to help more students than ever before thanks to the many generous donors who supported the Student Success Campaign," said Brett Woods, director of the SCC Foundation. "Over the past few years of working at SCC, I've gotten to know a lot of our students. These are hard-working people with big dreams, and it is a privilege to be able to give them the boost they need."

Final figures are still being tabulated, but SCC officials are confident this year's gala will eclipse the \$63,000 raised at last year's event.

For more information about the SCC Foundation, contact Kathy Posey at 828.339.4227 or [k\\_posey@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:k_posey@southwesterncc.edu).



# BLUEGRASS Blue Jeans & Bling

## Scenes from the 2017 Gala



### SCC Foundation value doubles during Dr. Tomas' tenure

Since Dr. Don Tomas was named president of Southwestern Community College six years ago, the SCC Foundation's total value has more than doubled.

That means the Foundation currently has more than \$5.5 million in the bank to support student success - primarily through scholarships. In 2011, when Dr. Tomas became SCC's sixth president, the SCC Foundation had a total portfolio valuation of approximately \$2.59 million.

A big chunk of that increase came from the establishment of the \$1 million Student Success Scholarship Endowment - by far the largest in SCC history. That campaign began in 2013 and reached its seven-figure goal during the Bluegrass, Blue Jeans & Bling gala last month. Multiple other scholarship endowments and estate planning commitments have come together in recent years under the leadership of Brett Woods, director of the SCC Foundation.

"I honestly have no words to describe the generous nature of the people throughout our service area," Dr. Tomas said. "Our donors absolutely recognize the value of SCC. They get it. They understand what our college, our students, our employees and our alumni bring to this region. They support us, and they change our students' lives one gift at a time."



### Diane E. Sherrill, Attorney

#### Is a Will Enough?

FREE LUNCHEON SEMINAR

Nov. 15 • 11:30 A.M.  
Southwestern Community College

828.586.4051  
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