

A PUBLICATION OF ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Impact

June 2019

Volume 25

Issue 4

**Bright Futures
Ahead for
ECC Grads**



Elgin
Community
College



MISSION
The mission of Elgin Community College is to improve people's lives through learning.

SHARED VALUES
*Excellence
Freedom of Inquiry
Equity
Diversity
Ethical Practices
Accountability
Collaboration*

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The Community College District 509 Board of Trustees meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise posted on the board's web page. All meetings are held in: Building E, Room E125 Seigle Auditorium Elgin Community College 1700 Spartan Drive Elgin, IL 60123

You can access board agendas, minutes, instructions for addressing the board, and board contact information at elgin.edu/boardoftrustees.

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LEADING THE WAY

A message from the ECC President and Board Chair

Dear ECC Community,

Improving lives through learning is our mission and is always at the very core of everything we do. To accomplish this objective, we work diligently to offer an affordable and quality education that is accessible to everyone. By providing our students with a wide range of resources and opportunities, we help set the course for them to achieve their dreams.

For example, Elgin Community College recently became one of the first community colleges in Illinois to adopt the state framework that considers multiple measurements of assessment when placing new students into college-level courses. As part of our commitment to equity, this policy is aimed at reducing the number of students placed in developmental classes and increasing overall course completion rates. When our students succeed, everyone benefits.

In fact, 90 high school seniors—from three school districts—completed our Accelerate College Program in May 2019. Ten of those students, from District 300, earned their associate degrees just one day before receiving their high school diplomas. What an extraordinary accomplishment! This groundbreaking partnership with our local school districts not only shows that many high school students can handle rigorous college coursework, but saves them thousands of dollars in future tuition.

We salute all of our graduates and their families and friends who encouraged and supported them; our esteemed faculty and staff; and the ECC Foundation for playing an integral role in helping to fulfill our mission by providing support and scholarships to our students.

As we reflect on the spring 2019 commencement, we hope that you, too, will find inspiration in the words of our students, featured on pages 4 and 5. Each of these students had a dream and set a course for success; we are proud to call them ECC alumni.

Whether you are alumni, community members, or prospective students, we invite you to stop by to visit the campus. You are always welcome at ECC!

Sincerely,

David Sam, PhD, JD, LLM
President



Donna Redmer, EdD, '76
Chair, Board of Trustees



FEATURED STORIES

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Impact (USPS 013-896) June 6, 2019 is published four times a year, October, November, March, and June by Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin, IL 60123-7193. Volume 25, Issue 4. Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL 60123-7193. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, IL 60120. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin, IL 60123-7193.



LEARNING TODAY TO LEAD TOMORROW

Pilot program places ECC interns with local legislators' offices

This spring, seven Elgin Community College students took part in a pilot program that combined internships in congressional offices with classroom study and conversations with experts to facilitate real-world understanding of the political arena. The inspiration for this program came from the actions of the students themselves.

"We want to nurture future leaders."
— Antonio Ramirez

program to help the students become better citizens, advance their sense of responsibility, understand the influence of

"[ECC] has a class where students attend a four-day state government simulation in Springfield," said Antonio Ramirez, assistant professor of history and political science. "One year, after the course ended, the participants kept meeting to expand on that sense of engagement. So I thought: What can I do to help?"

The result was a pilot

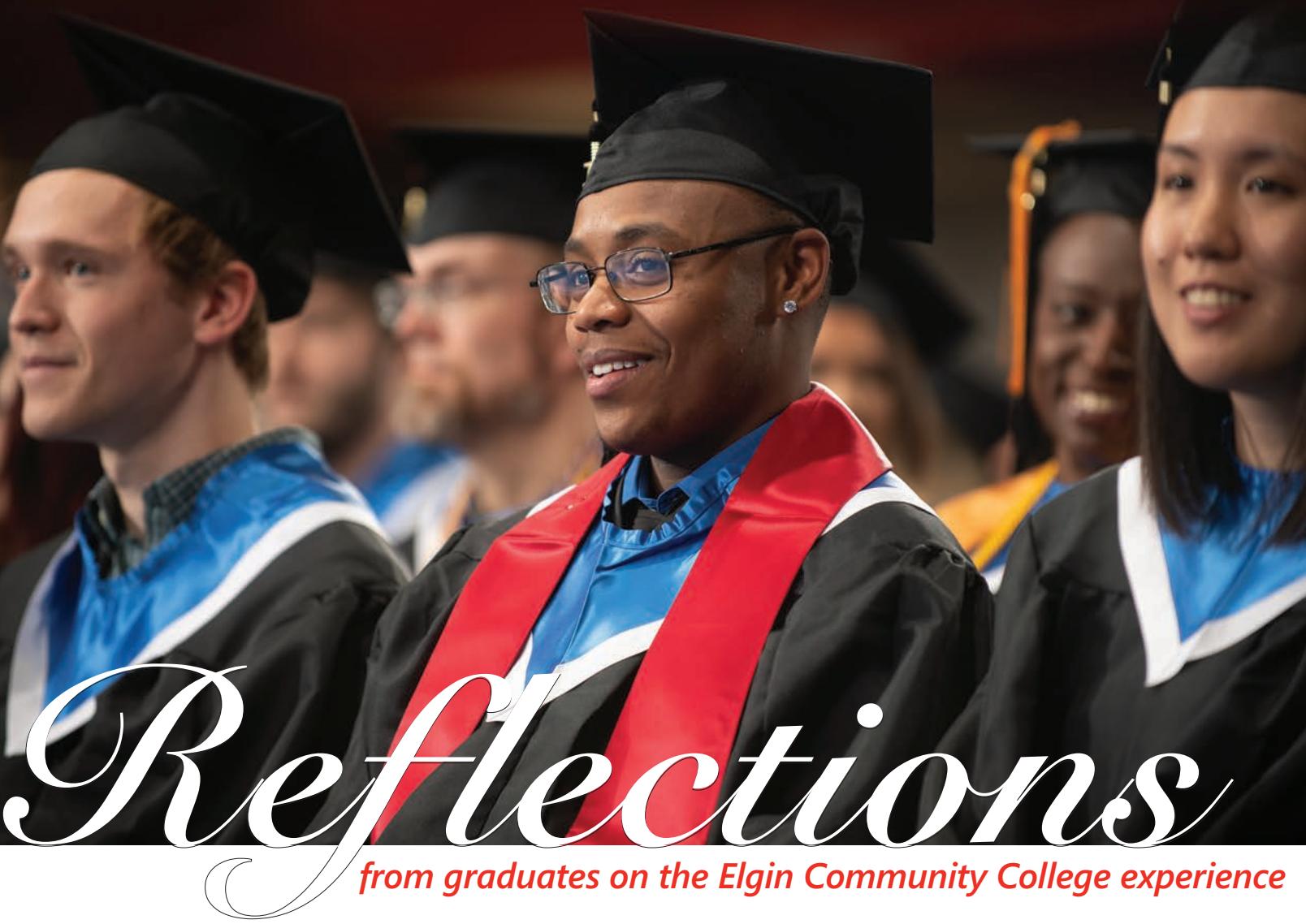
government, explore career options, and increase their networking opportunities. "Most importantly, we want to nurture future leaders," said Ramirez, who partnered on the project with Paula Amenta, managing director of community engagement and legislative affairs, and Kathy Meisinger, director of strategic partnerships and experiential learning.

"Internships in any field open doors to first jobs and help people get hired more quickly," said Meisinger. "They also help students test out professional environments and behaviors, making real strategic, practical, and ethical decisions and accepting their consequences."

It didn't take long to secure placements for seven students with legislators who had previously requested ECC interns or were located close to campus, including the offices of U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, state Sen. Cristina Castro, and state Reps. Fred Crespo and Anna Moeller.

"When people think of educational innovation, they tend to picture technological and online advances," said Ramirez. "This, however, is about the power of face-to-face interactions, as students amplify their learning and do important work to improve their own communities."

Pictured above: ECC student interns worked closely with Leslie Ann Reis, deputy district director for the office of U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, and Yasmeen Bankole, constituent services liaison. Reis served as mentor during the internships. From left to right are Fernando Ariza, Esmeralda Flores, Reis, Dagmawit Mckonen, and Bankole.



Reflections

from graduates on the Elgin Community College experience

With every graduation, there is a new beginning. Students enter Elgin Community College bringing with them a variety of goals and aspirations—finding a new job, transferring to a four-year school, advancing in their careers, enjoying a sense of pride in a dream fulfilled. At our May and December commencement ceremonies, ECC celebrates each student's transition into a new chapter of life.

Several members of the spring 2019 graduating class share their experiences, their triumphs, and their gratitude on these pages. Their inspiring words encompass what is special about ECC and illustrate the significance of joining the ranks of over 45,000 people who have graduated from ECC since its founding in 1949.

BECOMING A QUALIFIED WELDER

"Going back to school in your 30s after you've already started raising a family can be a really scary and exciting thing. Going back to school as a woman in the welding industry can make it even more nerve-wracking. My journey, however, has been amazing. In my short time at ECC, I feel I have gained so much knowledge in this field... The welding program has a great reputation. I graduated from the Integrated Career & Academics Preparation System (ICAPS). I am very thankful for this program and for our ICAPS teacher, Ellen Herbert. After only two semesters I am now a qualified welder and have already gained employment in the field..."

— Taryn White

Note: Taryn White is featured on the cover of this issue of Impact.

CHANGING MY LIFE AND OTHERS

"I chose ECC because its campus felt the most inviting. I stayed because of the unique opportunities available to me here... I got involved in Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society, eventually becoming the president for the 2018-2019 year. With PTK, I had the opportunities to run the Spartan Food Pantry on campus with my team, make positive changes in my community, go to conferences in Kansas City and Orlando, and meet students who have become lifelong friends. ECC focuses a lot more on who you can become instead of who you are. I was lucky enough to receive the Motorola Solutions Scholarship through the ECC Foundation in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. This recognition ... felt good and made me want to work hard so that one day, I can make similar contributions to others."

— Ivan Roman

ECC, D300 celebrate first Accelerate College grads

This spring, Elgin Community College recognized its first cohort of Accelerate College graduates—10 students from Community Unit School District 300 who enrolled full time in ECC's program. In addition to earning their high school diplomas in May 2019, these students also earned associate degrees from ECC.

Accelerate College is a dual-credit program in which high school students complete college courses for an associate degree while also fulfilling the requirements for a high school diploma. Participating school districts, such as D300, cover tuition costs.

The program offers a smooth transition between high school and college; reduces the overall cost of college for families; speeds up the time to degree completion; and gives a head start to students who may be unable to afford college.



"ECC focuses on who you can become."

— Ivan Roman



A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

"This might sound shocking, but I had no idea what I wanted to do when I got out of high school. Elgin Community College was my safe school, and it was the place where I had time to figure everything out. When I first saw the campus, I thought it was outstanding and a little intimidating... When I look back at how scared I was, I laugh because here I am now so involved and excited to graduate. I became a member of Black Student Achievers and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. I received three ECC Foundation scholarships that blessed me with books and classes that I couldn't afford. For some reason, you feel the support here at ECC. You can tell that people want to help you succeed. I love that I met staff leaders who always looked out for me and made sure I had the resources I needed."

— Brianna Paulino

COLLEGE SEEMED UNATTAINABLE

"Two years ago, I would have never thought I'd be where I am today. A college education seemed unattainable because I didn't have any money. It wasn't until I applied to Elgin Community College and, eventually, through scholarships from the ECC Foundation and the Board of Trustees that I was able to attend ECC... Even as the end nears, it all seems surreal. If it hadn't been for ECC and the opportunities it has provided me, I wouldn't be graduating debt-free and eager to face the world."

— Luz Silva

To read more about these graduates and hear from other new alumni, visit us at elgin.edu/news-events.

ECC BY THE NUMBERS*

5,785 ADULT LEARNERS



989
DEGREE APPLICANTS
IN THE SPRING
GRADUATING CLASS

2/3 HONORS GRADUATES

260 VETERANS OR ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY

*Preliminary 2018-2019 institutional data as of June 5, 2019; information subject to change.

TOUGH TRAINING

Saves Lives



When an emergency medical technician (EMT) is called to a scene, the ability to quickly assess the situation and begin basic life support can make all the difference. Graduates of Elgin Community College's EMT program are highly desired candidates to fill these roles and Pat Crawford, president of Elgin Medi-Transport, knows why.

"We seek out ECC students because they're prepared," explained Crawford, whose company is always looking for the best-trained candidates. This might sound like a simple answer, but for EMTs, it's a life-or-death distinction.

Senior Director of Academic Programming and Public Safety Training John Fahy credits ECC's Burlington-based Center for Emergency Services for providing realistic simulations that help students master the techniques they need on the job. "On the first day of class, we lay it on the line," said Fahy, a former Elgin Fire Department chief. "We tell them, 'This training is tough because lives will depend on you.'"

Part of the training includes placing specialized mannequins, that produce breathing and pain sounds (like moaning), in life-threatening situations. For example, a mannequin might be placed in the stairwell of the center's burn tower to simulate a fall. A car from the college's automotive program may be used to practice finding a patient near a crash—all while staying in communication with the teacher and classmates who act as controls in the classroom.

"This training is tough because lives will depend on you."

—John Fahy

clinical experience at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin in preparation for the required certification test.

An EMT position is often the first step toward becoming a paramedic. Many employers will pay for future training—provided students commit to at least one year with the company. The EMT program includes 133 hours of essential coursework at ECC and 16 hours of

Real-world skills gained through real-world practice

For students, training on equipment that mirrors the real-world environment is critical to successful job placement. Histotechnicians work in a lab setting to prepare body tissues for review and diagnosis by pathologists.

Elgin Community College received a donation of a Tissue-Tek AutoSection® Automated Microtome from Sakura Americas in 2018, one of three colleges in the nation to be selected for this donation. This state-of-the-art resource gives ECC's histotechnology students a competitive advantage and prepares them to transition seamlessly into the modern healthcare workplace—an advantage for both the student and the employer.

"To be in the top tier of colleges in the nation that have this essential equipment says a lot about the quality of our students," said Deborah Wollenberg, director of clinical laboratory technology



and histotechnology programs. "We are proud to be the largest histotechnology program in the state of Illinois."

A microtome is used for cutting precise sections of body tissues for microscopic examination. The Tissue-Tek equipment features patented sensing and automated 3-D specimen holder technology for exact placement. As with any technical equipment used in the workplace, having prior experience builds confidence and success for the student.

"We appreciate this contribution from Sakura Americas that supports ECC's continued strength in preparing students for healthcare careers in our community and beyond," said David

Davin, executive director of institutional advancement and ECC Foundation. "Equipment donations are among the many ways to support experiential learning and help our hardworking students achieve a quality education at ECC."

Student's NASA dream becomes a reality

Engineering sciences student Adam Pillari was selected to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) experience at the Langley Research Center in April.

Pillari's Langley visit included tours of the facility and a robotics challenge, where NCAS students worked in teams designing rovers out of LEGO® MINDSTORMS® kits and deploying them to retrieve samples on a simulated Mars terrain. His team also delivered a mock presentation in which they assumed the role of an aeronautics company pitching their rover product to NASA officials.

"Honestly, the entire experience has been very exciting," said Pillari. "My ultimate dream would be to work for NASA, so one can hope that this is a good omen." Pillari worked for five years as an aircraft mechanic before enrolling in ECC. He learned about the NASA program from his calculus professor, Chalyce Deterding. After graduation, Pillari plans to pursue a master's degree in aeronautical engineering.

Applying for the program involves a rigorous application and study process that included an essay, transcript verification of eight hours of STEM classes, and six weeks of online courses, which included quizzes and a final research paper. Only the top performers in the online component of the program—400 community college students nationwide—are invited to Langley Research Center to work together.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP EXTENDS LEGACY OF HISTORY PROFESSOR BILL PELZ

Former history and political science professor Bill Pelz, PhD, was an award-winning teacher, historian, author and editor, and founder of the non-profit Institute for Working Class History. When he died in December 2017, his 20-year legacy of contributing to the lives of Elgin Community College students wasn't finished.

"There was much more he wanted to do," said his wife, Adrienne Butler, MD. So when she sold his 1892 Chicago row house, Butler worked with the ECC Foundation to invest the proceeds in a scholarship earmarked for first-generation college students, especially those who study history or political science.

"Bill was aware of how challenging it can be to succeed in school without support," said Butler. "So I hope this will allow a succession of students to commit to their studies without having to work full time."

The Bill Pelz Memorial Scholarship will be awarded for the first time in fall 2020. The scholarship joins more than 200 scholarships available through the ECC Foundation.



ECC faculty/staff recognized for excellence in their fields

Heidi Eaton, professor of digital technologies, and **Helen DiNardo**, health professions adjunct faculty, won ECC's 2019 Orrin G. Thompson Teaching Excellence Awards. Both faculty members also represented the college at the Illinois Community College Trustees Association awards ceremony held in June.

Susan Timm, EdD, professor of digital technologies, was recognized with the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education's Lifetime Achievement Award at the February conference in Normal, IL.

Amybeth Maurer, director of orientation and student life; **Marc Hucek**, assistant professor of welding; **Abigail Bailey, PhD**, assistant professor of mathematics; **Annamarie Schopen**, managing director of institutional compliance and curriculum; and **Tyler O'Donnell**, recruitment coordinator, were selected to receive the 2019 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Award. The award recognizes outstanding faculty, staff, and administrators of community and technical colleges.

Student leaders elected to board positions

Isabella Hernandez, of Elgin, will serve as a student member on the Illinois Community College Board for the 2019-2020 term, beginning July 1. In her role, Hernandez will share the student perspective on key issues and will represent all community college students throughout the state. Hernandez, whose parents and grandparents also attended community college, is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She looks forward to "encourag[ing] other students to embrace all that community colleges have to offer."



Hernandez



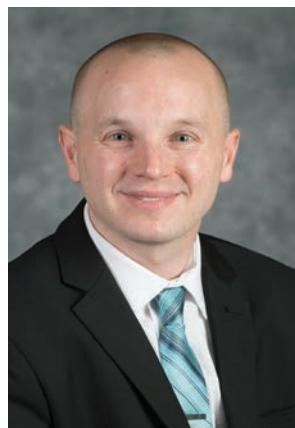
Swick

Elgin Community College students elected **Abigail Swick**, of Elgin, to serve as student trustee for the 2019-2020 term on the Community College District 509 Board of Trustees. Swick looks forward to being the voice of student values and ambitions while supporting fellow students in her board role. She has competed successfully on ECC's forensics team, has served the college as a student tutor, and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology after she graduates from ECC.

“By receiving three amazing scholarships I am able to walk out of ECC debt-free, knowing I will be able to start a great career without anything holding me back.”

— Ryan Ottens, class of 2019

Recipient of the
Donald A. Beresford Memorial Scholarship
Zema-Sysco Scholarship
Academic and Leadership Endowed Scholarship



Nowak seated as new trustee; Ollayos re-elected

Following the April 2019 general election, **Shane Nowak**, Elgin resident and Elgin Community College graduate, became the newest member of Community College District 509's Board of Trustees. His ideas for ECC include improving educational outcomes, expanding online programs, addressing enrollment concerns, and maintaining a responsible approach to budgeting. Nowak holds a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree from American Public University. **Clare M. Ollayos, DC**, Elgin resident and business owner, was re-elected to the board. She has served as a college trustee since 1995.

Welding competition draws 39 high school participants

Thirty-nine aspiring high school welders, representing nine area schools, demonstrated their skills at Elgin Community College's second annual welding competition held in May.

"Events like this provide motivation for the high school students training during the year," said Marc Hucek, assistant professor of welding. "It's a way for them to receive some recognition for their hard work. Those who have this highly desired skill will be able to find great paying jobs and do something they love."

Taking first place was **Jesus Don Juan**, Dundee-Crown High School. Second and third places went to **Jake Giles**, Sycamore High School, and **Kevin Niechajewski**, Burlington Central High School, respectively. Both Don Juan and Niechajewski are enrolled in ECC's tech prep program with their high schools.

The competition was sponsored by Northern Illinois Steel Supply Co., Pipefitters Local 597, Blue Demon Welding Products, Airgas, Weldstar, Goodheart-Willcox Publisher, National Standard, and Lincoln Electric.



1



2



3



4



5

FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

spotlights alumni, community leaders

More than commemorating a historical event, Founders' Day at Elgin Community College is a time for the community to come together to celebrate all the ways a 70-year-old vision is still changing lives.

The signature event, held in February, raised nearly \$40,000 for the Resources for Excellence Annual Fund, which provides critical support for the areas of greatest need impacting student success. Some of those student successes can be read on the pages of this publication, but every day, ECC provides an opportunity to anyone with a goal. The ECC Foundation plays a significant role as a source of scholarship funding and working with donors who want to make a difference.

The Founders' Day event is an opportunity to assemble the people who have given their support and to honor community leaders who have made a difference in their communities and at ECC. It is also a day to recognize the achievements of ECC alumni who exemplify what is possible with an ECC education.

"Founders' Day is a longstanding tradition. It brings together the diverse communities we serve on one day to celebrate the people who make our ECC community so special," said David Davin, executive director of institutional advancement and ECC Foundation.

The 2019 award recipients for outstanding contributions to ECC and the community were: **Dean Follmann**, PhD, '77, Distinguished Alumni Award; **The Bryant Crawford Family**, Friend of Education

Award; and **Grand Victoria Foundation and Grand Victoria Casino**, Exceptional Friend of the ECC Foundation Award. In addition, four individuals were recognized with the ECC Lasting Impact Award: **Carol Gieske**, '77, president and CEO, Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce; **Pat Szpekowski**, president, PR Strategies & Communications; **Herb Porter**, Hanover Park Board of Trustees; and **Jeff Turner**, president and co-founder, Dream Foods.

"Looking around the room and realizing how much good work is being accomplished because of the generosity and commitment of all the people who give is incredibly gratifying," said Davin. The ECC Foundation is already looking for next year's award recipients.

1) ECC Foundation scholarship recipients take a break from their volunteer roles to surround ECC President David Sam. Events such as Founders' Day are essential for generating proceeds that support all ECC students.

2) The Bryant Crawford Family received the Friend of Education Award. Shown left to right are family members Dornetria Hemphill, Chivas Hemphill, Bryant Crawford, Christopher Crawford, and Alice Crawford, EdD.

3) Distinguished Alumni Award winner Dean Follmann, PhD, '77, celebrates with his wife (third from right) Dona Patrick, '77, and other family members.

4) Founders' Day attendees included (left to right): John and Flicka Regan, Jennifer Sellers-Wong and Michael Wong, and John A. Early and Rebecca Early.

5) Shown with ECC President David Sam (at center) are this year's Lasting Impact Award winners: (from left to right) Herb Porter; Carol Gieske, '77; Pat Szpekowski; and Jeff Turner.

Foundation spotlight: Ian Lamp

Twelve years of leadership and service

As his 12 years of volunteer service comes to a close, the ECC Foundation and Elgin Community College reflect on the contributions and leadership of Ian Lamp.

During his tenure as chair of the ECC Foundation Board of Directors, Lamp oversaw significant growth in the foundation's financial impact, allowing the foundation to better support programs and serve the students of ECC. The endowment grew to \$6,046,009—an increase of over \$1.3 million in four years—while annual fundraising increased 15 percent.

Under Lamp's board leadership, the foundation's direct impact on students also expanded dramatically as scholarship dollars awarded increased over 90 percent. Currently, 288 students receive scholarships to pursue their educations, a 32 percent increase during Lamp's tenure.

Lamp, president of Lamp Incorporated, and his wife, Lisa, co-chaired the ECC Foundation's 30th Anniversary Pearl Gala, which raised over \$132,000. Finally, Lamp was part of the foundation's executive team that led the organization through the adoption of new and updated policies and procedures to modernize its best practices in internal governance, scholarships and grants, stewardship, and finance and investments.

The ECC Foundation and the college recognize Lamp for the differences his efforts and generous donations have made in the lives of ECC students and in strengthening the foundation's capacity to serve the college and our community.



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YOU are committed to our community.

YOU want to have a greater impact.

How can YOU help?



Elgin Community College Foundation offers a variety of ways to get involved.

For more information:
elgin.edu/eccfoundation

847-214-7377

foundation@elgin.edu

To make a difference now, visit:
elgin.edu/give



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NOW THROUGH
AUGUST 18

OPEN REGISTRATION
FOR FALL SEMESTER
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AUGUST 3
PROJECT BACKPACK
SCHOOL SUPPLY
GIVEAWAY
project-backpack.org

AUGUST 6
TUITION PAYMENT
DUE DATE

AUGUST 19
FALL 2019
SEMESTER BEGINS

OCTOBER 1
COLLEGE NIGHT
elgin.edu/collegenight

NOVEMBER 11
SPRING 2020
OPEN REGISTRATION

DECEMBER 14
FALL COMMENCEMENT



Fall classes begin Monday, August 19.

GET STARTED TODAY.

elgin.edu/go

PROJECT BACKPACK BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE 2019

DONATE SUPPLIES OR FUNDS THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 12.

Join us! Give-away event takes place at ECC on Saturday, August 3.

FOR DETAILS: PROJECT-BACKPACK.ORG