

Foundation Celebrates Record Contributions, Gala Attendees

Baytown — The Lee College Foundation has plenty to celebrate in its 56-year history, but this year's gala stands out. Last weekend, the Lee College Foundation Gala raised a record-breaking \$231,000, drawing in an unprecedented 425 attendees. Funds raised at the gala will go toward student scholarships, as well as basic needs, emergency aid, and other critical needs that support Lee College student success. The event honored the generosity of legacy donors while also welcoming new supporters and inspiring fresh commitments to the Foundation's mission.

"A huge thank you goes out to our remarkable donors whose contributions make life-changing opportunities possible for so many of our students," said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Lee College President. "The generosity of our Lee College Foundation donors shows they truly care about the work we do and the lives that will continue to be touched for years to come."

Proceeds from the 37th annual gala will be used to support Lee College and its students by funding scholarships, providing basic needs, enhancing student programs, and improving facilities.

"I am in awe of the generosity of the Lee College#Foundation#donors and humbled by their commitment to improving the lives of Lee College students," said Selah Tacconi, Lee College Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of the Lee College#Foundation. "The Lee College#Foundation#Gala is an example of how when we come together with a shared purpose, we are unstoppable!"

Lee College Foundation Board Chair, Gary Englert added, "I am always amazed and very proud of the support Baytown and surrounding communities give to Lee College. # There is no better way to give back to our community than to support a young person who is trying to navigate their way through life with a scholarship that helps them reach their goals and dreams."

The event's student speaker and scholarship recipient, Joseph Chapa, shared how he has come full circle as he prepares to start a scholarship to memorialize his mother. This scholarship will allow Joseph to give back to a future Lee College student experiencing financial barriers to reaching their academic and workforce goals.

"You have supported, motivated and encouraged me during these difficult times," said Chapa. "You made it happen."

In 2024, the Lee College Foundation awarded \$830,000 to approximately 800 students.

To find out more about changing students' lives through higher education, visit lee.edu/foundation or call the Lee College Foundation office at 281.425.6303.