

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

currents

Spring 2017

The
Pattersons
Turning Modest Means
into Rewarding Gifts

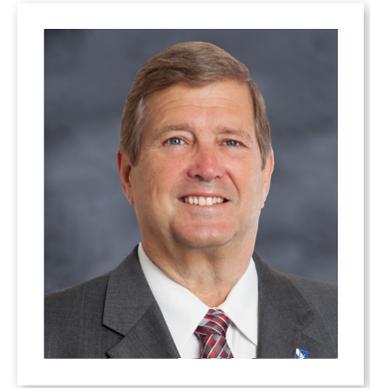
A PUBLICATION OF THE

Kirkwood
FOUNDATION

Dear friends,

At Kirkwood, thousands of people from different locations, ethnicities and socio-economic statuses join to accomplish great things. This melting pot is a place of ideas where dreams are realized for the betterment of all. Kirkwood is a shining example of what can be accomplished when we harness our differences as strengths and work together as a community.

I'm proud of the innovative work that our institution delivers. We are removing barriers and helping students succeed. From its inception, Kirkwood has provided students with multiple paths to education. By pairing skilled educators and a community of support, students thrive and achieve their goals. You will find a few of these inspiring stories in the following pages.



Automotive Technology is one of Kirkwood's original programs. Strong from the outset, it has continued to expand opportunities for students. The program's faculty is not only highly skilled, but somewhat unique, as three of the instructors are former Kirkwood Automotive Technology students. Assistant instructor Brian Brownfield knew the program's national reputation and returned to help carry on that legacy.

The Allied Health program is another great example. Strong faculty, partners and training equip graduates with skills that healthcare employers need right now. Current dental hygiene student Ashley Mahanna will graduate this spring. With Kirkwood's help, she is overcoming personal challenges while pursuing her dream. Like many students, she is excited to start her new career, and a new chapter, in her life.

Alumnus Teri Copler's lifelong relationship and praise of Kirkwood not only continues, but has grown. She has signed on for new duties that build upon her past experiences and encourage the next generation of college students.

Donors Rich and Marion Patterson show us that individuals of modest means can structure a gift that makes a powerful difference. Through careful planning, they have created a legacy that will benefit several nonprofit organizations, including the Kirkwood Foundation, for generations to come.

I encourage you to take a look at our calendar of events or visit kirkwood.edu/calendar to find exciting ways to interact with the college on campus. Attend fine art performances, special events and exhibits, and athletic matchups. There are great things happening here all the time.

Lastly, in January I announced my plan to retire after the 2017-2018 academic year. Reflecting on this decision, I am so proud and very humbled by what Kirkwood has accomplished during my tenure as president. Though many things have changed, our core objective remains the same: to provide students the instruction and programs needed for educational and career success. While the process of doing that will continue to evolve, the call to fulfill our purpose endures and Kirkwood continues to forge the path into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Starcevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Mick Starcevich
President

APRIL

- 3–28 Student Art Exhibit
Reception: Thursday, April 27, 2017
Iowa Hall Art Gallery
11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
- 15 Kirkwood's Instrumental Jazz Ensemble
and Jazz Combos Concert
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 16 Easter Brunch
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 21 Spring Fling Concert featuring Jazz Transit
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 28 Concert Choir and Chamber Singers
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 28 KCKK Playing It Forward: Taste of Jazz
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
6:30 p.m.

MAY

- 3 World Culinary Tour featuring Korea
The Class Act Restaurant
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
5 – 9 p.m.
- 6 Kirkwood Concert Band
Ballantyne Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
- 13 Commencement
U.S. Cellular Center
10 a.m.

- 14 Mother's Day Brunch
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 24 Alumni & Friends Veteran Dinner
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
5:30 p.m.

JUNE

- 7 World Culinary Tour featuring Ethiopia
The Class Act Restaurant
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
5 – 9 p.m.

JULY

- 12 World Culinary Tour featuring Romania
The Class Act Restaurant
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
5 – 9 p.m.

AUGUST

- 2 World Culinary Tour featuring Israel
The Class Act Restaurant
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
5 – 9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 6 World Culinary Tour featuring Philippines
The Class Act Restaurant
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
5 – 9 p.m.

For a full listing of college events, visit www.kirkwood.edu/calendar.

An Efficient Impact

According to MarketWatch.com, donors to Kirkwood can have confidence that their support is used for helping students.

Kirkwood Community College was recently ranked second in the nation among higher education institutions which devote the highest share of their donations to student assistance. Based on data released by the Council for Aid to Education, an organization that tracks college giving, Kirkwood devotes nearly 80 percent of its donations to financial aid.

On average nationwide, about 16 percent of donations to colleges were designated for financial aid during the same period.

Source: MarketWatch.com "If you donate to these colleges, they're more likely to use the money to help students."
Feb 18, 2017

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Going the extra mile for over fifty years

Program highlights:

- Toyota T-TEN (Technician Training and Education Network) School and one of only 36 in the nation - the only in Iowa
- Authorized Snap-On Certified Training Center, part of the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3)
- Honda PACT (Professional Automotive Career Training) Program School and one of only 26 in the nation - the only in Iowa
- Chrysler Training Certification
- ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certification

An education in automotive technology, while seemingly simple and straightforward, is anything but that at Kirkwood.

For students pursuing the two-year program, opportunities to specialize by earning various industry certifications enhance this already in-demand degree. This opens the door to a wide range of high-paying job opportunities following graduation.

One of the first nine programs offered when Kirkwood opened in 1966, Automotive Technology has been awarded national honors for educational excellence while developing an innovative approach to its curriculum.

Students are taught by an experienced auto technician turned instructor, Brian Brownfield. He and two other Automotive Technology instructors are program graduates who returned to Kirkwood to teach.

“We believe in the program and the meaning of our A.A. degree,” Brian said. “Our reputation is key.”

All four program instructors are ASE Masters, a certification that is now incorporated into the graduation requirements for Automotive Technology students. While only two of the rigorous tests are required to pass the program, many students decide to take all eight available tests.

“Becoming a Master in ASE is an important achievement for our students, especially those who can pass all eight tests,” Brian said.

The program prepares students to complete the ASE Master Certification over the course of two years. This certification sets them apart from other entry-level technicians and can more than double their earning potential, with ASE Masters making up to \$120,000 per year.

For Brian, completing the Automotive Technology program at Kirkwood and graduating with the Master ASE certification laid the groundwork for his success. He

graduated in 1997 as a Toyota T-TEN certified technician, but his learning didn't stop there. Brian went on to become a Master Chevrolet Technician and a Toyota Master Diagnostic Technician while working at various dealerships and auto repair facilities.

When he was approached about teaching at Kirkwood by Dan Hall, one of his former instructors, he knew how he wanted to lead the program forward.

“I had a lot of respect for Dan and what he did for us as students,” Brian said. “He would try to teach us what was coming down the road instead of just what was relevant today. So, when he asked me to take the torch from him and carry that tradition forward, it was really a special moment. It was an honor.”

Looking ahead is what Brian and his fellow instructors have always done and continue to do.

During their time in the classroom and lab, students learn about the needs of the industry in a hands-on environment. Through factory partnerships and opportunities to intern at local dealerships, they become well-rounded technicians, ready to step right into a career.

While most of the program's students come from the seven-county region Kirkwood serves, its reach is much further. Brian emphasizes the importance of making sure the program's reputation has national recognition.

“We're always going to training conferences to build relationships,” Brian said. “We routinely get calls from out-of-state dealerships looking for graduates from our program.”

For Kirkwood Automotive Technology graduates, that means a bright future. The demand for skilled workers is high. With the certifications they've had the opportunity to gain through the program, they are prepared to join a growing industry brimming with potential.



Pictured above,
Automotive Technology Instructor,
Brian Brownfield



—◆—
“We believe in the program and
the meaning of our A.A. degree.
Our reputation is key.”

—Brian Brownfield



ASHLEY MAHANNA

finds her place

Words written by Elton John and Tim Rice befit student Ashley Mahanna:

Through despair and hope
Through faith and love
Til we find our place
On the path unwinding
In the circle
The circle of life...

—◆—
“It was hard, and sometimes I wanted to quit. But my START counselor and program advisor offered a lot of support. I’m so glad I kept at it.”

—Ashley Mahanna
—◆—

Kirkwood programs, faculty and staff helped Ashley navigate her educational path while facing life’s challenges and triumphs.

Ashley had always thought she would one day attend a four-year school. But after adjusting to a move from the big city of Las Vegas, Nevada to the small town of Wellman, Iowa, and coping with the loss of her dad during high school senior year, the future felt uncertain.

“During high school, my dad suggested I become a dental



hygienist,” Ashley reflected. “After he passed, I decided to learn more about this career to honor him. I got a job as a dental assistant working in dental offices in Kalona, Coralville and Iowa City. I absolutely loved it.”

Eager to pursue a degree, Ashley explored her options. Unsure about enrolling in a four-year

school, she considered Kirkwood’s program. In high school, Ashley heard that the community college was a great place to start. Kirkwood would also allow her to work full-time and take classes.

The Dental Hygiene program at Kirkwood is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which enables

graduates to apply for licensure upon graduation. The college trains students to work independently with patients to prevent, detect and treat diseases of the mouth.

“Kirkwood’s program was significantly harder than I expected,” Ashley noted. “And then when I became a mom, I had to figure out if staying in school was still an option.”

Kirkwood’s Project START program was the solution she was looking for. Since the program funds tuition, books, transportation and childcare expenses, Ashley was able to focus on earning her degree.

The college implemented Project START to help remove barriers preventing students from completing their degree. Funded through gifts to the college, at least 50 scholarships are awarded to Project START students each year. Students enrolled in the program are required to maintain

a 2.0 GPA or higher each semester. Program counselors provide emotional support and advocate on the student’s behalf with instructors and other college personnel. Project START also teaches participants educational strategies for studying and test taking to ensure positive outcomes.

“It was hard, and sometimes I wanted to quit,” Ashley recalled. “But my START counselor and program advisor offered a lot of support. I’m so glad I kept at it.” She is also thankful to her daughter’s father (who recently became her fiancée) for his help as a parent in making her education possible.

At commencement in May, Ashley will cross the stage with her father in her heart and her daughter in the audience. Kirkwood and Project START guided Ashley down her winding path. She has found her place in the circle of life.

June 2017 Retirees

Vicky Downs
2008 – 2016
Facilities

Michael Birmingham
2003 – 2016
Social Sciences

Diane Carter
1994 – 2016
Secondary Programs

Joan Hanna
2007 – 2016
Finance

Cherylann Stewart
1998 – 2016
Agricultural Science

Dan Behaunek
1979 – 2017
Industrial Technology

Cathy Fuller
1999 – 2017
Secondary Programs

Pamela Hanson
1990 – 2017
Allied Health

Gordy Jacobsen
1989 – 2017
Industrial Technology

Michael Martin
1998 – 2017
Facilities

Susan Ovel
2007 – 2017
Resource Development

Jan Robertson
1999 – 2017
Distance Learning

Cindy Rowland
1978 – 2017
Facilities

Paul Saladin
1997 – 2017
Agricultural Science

Conifer Smith
2001 – 2017
Arts & Humanities

Jim Zach
1978 – 2017
Agricultural Science

Joseph DeMaria
2000 – 2017
Iowa City Campus

Anne Duffy
1984 – 2017
Agricultural Science

Mario D. Meza
2004 – 2017
Math & Science

YOU'RE INVITED TO KIRKWOOD ALUMNI & FRIENDS VETERAN DINNER

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 • 5:30 p.m.
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

For ticket information visit
www.kirkwood.edu/veteransvp

Alumni Leadership Council

Melanie Abu-Nameh '01
Kirkwood Community College

Chad Bosch '99
Bosch Financial

Cassandra Brower '16
Kirkwood Community College Student

Lorilei Christner '90
VanMeter

Teri Copler '80
TrueNorth

Jeff Driscoll '86 '92
Primus Construction

Shawn Gallagher '86
Ladco, Inc

Deborah Gertsen '83
Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust

Stephen Hanisch '10
Kirkwood Community College

Nicole Hodge '93
U.S. Bank

Michael Ivester '88
ITC Midwest

Dawn Jones '93
Kirkwood Community College

Dennis Jordan '89
Mortenson Construction

Denise Kassis '17
Kirkwood Community College Student

Mary Klinger '88 '14
St. Lukes Foundation

Brad Marcus '90
U.S. Bank

Kristin McVay '05
UnityPoint Health

Brenda Moore '72
Retired, UIHC

Bethany Oberbroekling '16
University of Northern Iowa Student

Jason Pasker '01
Farmers State Bank

Andy Petersen '03
KISS Country FM

Robyn Rieckhoff '92
Freedom Festival

Mary Schneekloth '82
Kirkwood Community College

Rick Seger '80
Guaranty Bank and Trust

Geret Smith '16
University of Iowa Student

Tyler Soenksen '16
University of Iowa Student

Chris Wheeler '86
Point Builders Inc

Virginia Wilts '84
Guaranty Bank and Trust

Dear friends,

Spring is a magical time of the year, especially as we reflect on every student who is preparing to graduate and looking forward to their next step. Whether those students are graduating from pre-school, high school, or college, it is a time of excitement and anticipation as new opportunities await exploration.

At Kirkwood Community College, we honor our nearly 2,000 graduates who will join Kirkwood's dynamic alumni group – individuals who are contributing their skills and talents while impacting our workforce, our community and our entire region. As noted in a 2014 Economic Impact Report, 86 percent of Kirkwood graduates remain in our service region, and 95 percent remain in Iowa. Cumulatively, these alumni represent a state economic impact of nearly \$820 million dollars annually, and make up a large portion of Kirkwood's overall \$1 billion economic impact.

This year marks the sixth year of Kirkwood's Celebration of Success. This event is an opportunity to recognize four very successful Kirkwood alumni, a dynamic leader in higher education and a significant business partner. Celebration of Success was hosted on Friday, April 7, at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center. We were honored to recognize Kirkwood alumni Sharon Cummins, Ryan Lebeda, Mike Sanden and Fred Timko as our 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. We were also delighted to recognize Jim Zach, instructor, with the Trustee's Award for his leadership in higher education, and West Music with the President's Award for their partnership with the college. We sincerely hope you will join us in 2018.

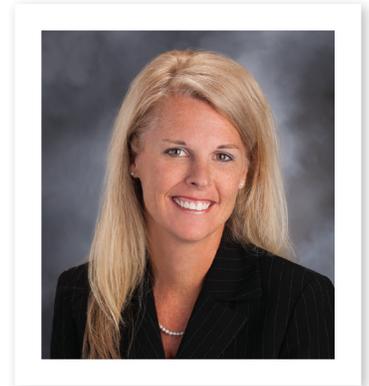
In our ongoing effort to showcase alumni success, we are gathering business cards to create an alumni tribute wall. We anticipate this wall will demonstrate to both current and future students the effect our alumni have through a variety of successful career paths. We encourage you to send your business card before June 1, 2017 to the Kirkwood Foundation, 6301 Kirkwood Boulevard SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Your name will be entered into a drawing for an alumni gift and will also be proudly displayed on our tribute wall.

As we look forward to spring and the upcoming graduations, please know how much we appreciate you – a Kirkwood graduate who left a lasting impact on the college and continues to make an important impact throughout your local community and region. We sincerely thank you.

Best wishes,



Jody Donaldson
Scholarship and Alumni Officer



TERI COPLER

a role model for success



As a young woman coming of age in the late 1970s, Teri Copler was influenced by the passion and promise of the women's movement. Today Teri's accomplishments as a business and community leader make her a role model, a positive influence for young women and men alike who aspire to the success she has achieved.

Always ambitious, this Washington, Iowa native had plans beyond high school. Teri knew she wanted to get involved in business. She explored the programs at Kirkwood, falling in love with the school the moment she set foot on campus. In 1979, Teri enrolled in the Administrative Management program, or as it was known back then, the General Secretary program. She later earned recognition as outstanding student for the program.

"Kirkwood just fit so perfectly for me," Teri proclaimed. "It was affordable. The instructors were approachable. It was very accessible and I liked that."

Teri's Kirkwood education has served her well. For the past 25 years, Teri has been helping businesses navigate the employee benefit landscape. She is currently a partner and benefit specialist at TrueNorth Insurance and Financial Strategies, joining the company during its infancy. Teri is a charter member of the United Benefit Advisors, an alliance of the nation's premiere employee benefits advisory firms. She is also the Chair of Women's Leadership Initiative through United Way, current vice president and president-elect of the Waypoint board of directors.

Recently Teri became a member of Kirkwood's Alumni Leadership Council, advocating on behalf of the college. The council is comprised of graduates impacting the communities Kirkwood serves. Its mission is to bridge past, present and future alumni and students to form meaningful and lasting connections.

"This college was my launch pad," Teri said. "Kirkwood gave me the solid education that was the foundation of my business career, and encouraged me to be a lifelong learner. After working a few years, I decided to further my education at Mount Mercy. Since joining the Alumni Leadership Council, I've learned this is a common story."

Each year Teri speaks to students studying administrative management and counsels high school students who are unsure of

the path to take after high school.

"Many students finishing high school are unsure of their goals. A four-year school can be overwhelming," Teri stated. "I've talked to a lot of kids who chose Kirkwood, including my son. He graduated with a transfer degree. Kirkwood kept him engaged in education while he figured things out."

Since she attended, the college has expanded its reach into surrounding communities, establishing regional learning centers in Monticello, Washington, Hiawatha and Johnson County

to augment high school curriculum through dual enrollment at Kirkwood. High school students can earn college credit at the regional centers.

"The dual enrollment

program gives students a leg up and incentive to learn. That's phenomenal," Teri said. "I'm so proud of my alma mater. Kirkwood is such an amazing community resource."

Teri extols Kirkwood's ability to stay current with changing needs in the workplace, successfully matching qualified graduates with area employers. A good match between the graduate and employer means better job security, pay and potential for advancement.

For Teri, Kirkwood was the perfect first step on the path to a great career.

—♦—
 "I'm so proud of
 my alma mater.
 Kirkwood is such
 an amazing
 community resource."
 —♦—

—Teri Copler

From the day they met, RICH AND MARION PATTERSON

Since their time in Colorado as graduate students and then in Idaho as newlyweds, the Pattersons have been committed to thrift and saving money, even before they had jobs or a home. As Marion says (“Manny” to her friends and family), they saved before they had a penny to their names.

In their early years together, Rich and Marion started saving the money gleaned from recycling beverage containers. Eventually Marion started “Found Money” funds at the schools where she worked. Modeled after an endowed fund at the University of Idaho, she combined refunds from bottles and cans collected by the students and staff with coins found on the ground. The funds grew and helped elementary students attend symphony concerts, theatre performances, environmental activities, and sporting events.

From this modest beginning, the Pattersons went on to successful careers in nonprofits and education. Although their circumstances are different now, their philosophy has never wavered from their early belief that everyone can save and accumulate wealth by being creative and careful.

Rich and Marion are well-known in the Cedar Rapids area. For thirty-six years, Rich served as Executive Director of the Indian Creek Nature Center. He left the Nature Center in 2014 to found a business he co-owns with Marion. A long-time educator, Marion is currently an instructor in Kirkwood’s high school completion program, working with adults earning

their diplomas and in the Kirkwood Pathways for Academic Career Education and Employment (KPACE).

Marion loves what she does at Kirkwood. “It’s the best job ever,” she stated. “Staff and I work closely with a diverse group of adults, helping them earn their diplomas or HiSET equivalency and figure out what skills they might need to get their very first job or a job that will better support them and their families. They are just so excited to see a better future - thanks to what we provide at Kirkwood.”

The Pattersons know first-hand the crucial importance that endowments play in providing financial support to nonprofits and educational institutions. Endowments are permanent funds that are kept intact; the income generated is used for ongoing support. During his time at the Nature Center, Rich’s disciplined approach to endowment-building created a strong foundation that would grow to provide a stable base of funding year after year. According to current Executive Director John Myers, earnings from the Nature Center’s endowments now supply around 20 percent of the organization’s annual budget.

Recently, Rich and Marion worked with the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation to set

up the Patterson Family Fund, an endowment which will eventually provide annual funding to five nonprofit institutions that helped Rich and Marion succeed in their own lives - one of which was Kirkwood. According to Rich, “Kirkwood Community College is important to us because, frankly, we are extremely impressed with it. Community colleges are critically important to

students of all ages.” In addition to Kirkwood, the Patterson Family Fund will help their alma maters Plymouth State University and the University of Idaho, the Indian Creek Nature Center, and their local church.

At Kirkwood, the Patterson Family Fund will support scholarships

to help students with financial need who have personal and life barriers to achieving their educational goals.

Rich and Marion started their fund with a modest amount of money at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. They and others can contribute to the Patterson Family Fund every year to help it grow to the point where a distribution can be made to the various organizations. They also worked with their attorney to write bequests that ensure one day 50 percent of their assets will add even more to the fund. The Pattersons are quite comfortable with the fact that their endowment will start small during their lifetime, and they will never personally witness the full

“Every endowment,
no matter the size,
makes a difference. Our
dream is that others will
follow our lead and do
what we have done.”

—Rich Patterson

HAVE HAD A SAVINGS PLAN

extent of the impact their gift will have in the future. But, as Marion puts it, “Kirkwood will always need private support for their scholarship needs. Our Patterson Family Fund will be there when Kirkwood needs it.”

Rich and Marion know that the amount distributed from the Patterson Family Fund to each of their designated institutions initially will be small. But, as Rich explains, “We wanted to show that people of modest means have the ability to create endowed funds which will grow and eventually have meaningful distributions for nonprofits like Kirkwood Community College. Every endowment, no matter the size, makes a difference. Our dream is that others will follow our lead and do what we have done. Then the impact on places like Kirkwood will be substantial.”

Because their gift is somewhat unusual, Rich and Marion received outstanding help working out the details from their attorney Travis Schroeder at Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergmann PLC, their tax advisor Steve Boyd at RSM, their financial advisors Ann Balvanz and Kristen Trovas at Merrill Lynch, and Susan Willey at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, along with representatives of the various nonprofit beneficiaries.

Today, in addition to teaching, consulting and conducting labyrinth workshops, Rich and Marion write about nature, ecology, and their frequent travels throughout the United States. They live in Cedar Rapids where they garden and raise chickens. They maintain a

website and consulting business, www.windingpathways.com, that “encourages people to create a wondrous yard that invites you outdoors into nature’s peaceful embrace.”

Their two children live out-of-state: Dan is a Senior Writer at CBS Interactive in New York City, and Nancy works for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), where she recently was hired as Manager at BLM’s Campbell Creek Science

Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Both participated in the development of Rich and Marion’s estate planning, and they see it as a concrete example of the values they learned as children.

Rich and Marion have structured a wonderful gift that can serve as a model for anyone. It’s a perfect example that one does not need to be wealthy to establish an endowment that, with time, can really help in a significant way.



Kirkwood FOUNDATION

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Send us your
business card! Help
us create an Alumni
Wall of Fame.

All business cards will be considered for a drawing of a Kirkwood Alumni & Friends jacket. Send your business card before June 1 to the Kirkwood Foundation office at the mailing address listed above.

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