



# TEXARKANA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT | DECEMBER 2016



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**Pete Velotas**  
Director of Operations  
Alcoa Mill Products

## Building PARTNERSHIPS

### Texarkana College receives grants from Texas Workforce Commission, Alcoa Foundation for industrial maintenance training

Our community was thrilled to have Alcoa reopen its doors for production this fall. After idling from July 2009 to August 2015, the company that invented the aluminum industry in 1888 has invested \$6 million to restart its Texarkana casthouse to meet demand for aluminum slab for the auto industry.

At a check presentation on August 12, Texas Workforce Commissioner Julian Alvarez presented a check for a Skills Development Fund grant in the amount of \$109,581 to Texarkana College to fund critical technical training needs for the restart of production at Alcoa's Texarkana plant.

Through this grant opportunity, TC is working with local Alcoa employees to provide training in industrial manufacturing maintenance, electrical high voltage training and mobile crane operations. TC will also train employees in OSHA general safety procedures and help some employees with computer applications skills. Grant funds also provide Alcoa with new OSHA-standard safety equipment and supplies.

When Alcoa reopened in 2016 and hired close to 80 employees, TC coordinated all re-employment testing and start-up training. Pete Velotas, Director of Operations for Alcoa Mill Products, said the grant will help build employees' skills and

knowledge while helping them maintain a safe working environment.

"Everything's moving more and more to computers and computer manufacturing," said Pete Velotas, Director of Operations for Alcoa Mill Products. "It's not the brawn as much as the technology. So we're going to need people on the mechanical side and electrical side who can work on that equipment and troubleshoot it. This grant will help fund their training."

In addition, the Alcoa Foundation presented a \$40,000 check to the Texarkana College Foundation for the advancement of Texarkana College's new industrial maintenance program, enabling the purchase of a state-of-the-art hydraulic training system. The new training tool will provide Texarkana College students and incumbent employees in manufacturing the opportunity to learn about maintenance on all types of hydraulic units.

"The Alcoa Foundation grant for the Lab-Volt Hydraulic Training System will allow the College to hone its industrial technology training to meet the specific needs of all local industries," said Jim Charnitz, Vice President of Alcoa BCI business unit. "This type of training helps students qualify for the high-tech jobs of the future here in Texarkana."



Above: Julian Alvarez with the Texas Workforce Commission signs a check for a Skills Development Grant at a ceremony on August 12.

Top left: The Alcoa Foundation presented the TC Foundation with \$40,000 to purchase a state-of-the-art hydraulic training system.

## Alumni SPOTLIGHT



# Three generations—that's how long Texarkana College has impacted the lives of the Hawkins Family.

Jackie Hawkins worked for Red River Army Depot at night and started classes at Texarkana College's old Pine Street campus during the day in 1952. In 1978, his son Greg graduated from DeKalb High School as valedictorian and enrolled at Texarkana College. And in 2010, Greg's son Caleb started Texarkana College on a full Presidential Scholarship.

"I set an example," Jackie said. That's an understatement.

As part of a family with seven children, Jackie couldn't afford veterinary school.

"I got a call to go to RRAD, and I got a job on swing shift," he said. "I'll tell you, it beat chopping cotton in the fields."

When he started at TC, his classes were upstairs in the old Texas High building. He transferred to East Texas State University in the '70s to finish his degree in business administration. Ten years before he retired from RRAD, he and his wife Mary started an insurance business out of their home. In the Hawkins family, education became an expectation and a priority.

"I encouraged them a lot," Jackie said. "I remember when Greg brought in a report card with a 104 on it. I said, 'Is that the best you can do?' He didn't tell me until he was grown how mad that made him."

Though he graduated as valedictorian, Greg

wasn't sure college was a good fit for him.

"Lonestar Steel was blowing and going, and I had a couple of friends who graduated ahead of me and were making money hand over fist," Greg said. "I was told, 'You will go to college. If you don't, you will move out and find your own place and be on your own.'"

Greg chose college.

He started in TC's farm and ranch management program in 1978, and though he changed his major several times, he eventually transferred to veterinary school at Texas A&M University in Commerce.

"Texarkana College gave me the opportunities to get my prerequisite courses for whatever I happened to be pursuing at the time, economically and locally," he said. "I was able to work part time while I was here and live at home with Mom and Dad. It just gave me that basic starting point to go from."

Greg went to work as a field veterinarian for the state and eventually became Region Director for the Texas Animal Health Commission. During his long veterinary career, he has worked to eradicate cattle Brucellosis (a bacterial disease that causes reproductive failure), responded to hurricanes and a space shuttle crash, and traveled to England to help with the foot and mouth disease epidemic of 2001. And during the tail end of

Greg's career, someone was watching him.

"I was about 7 at my grandparents' place in Hubbard," said Caleb, Greg's son. "I didn't understand this at the time, but my dad had to do a rectal palpation of a cow, and I remember thinking, 'Why is my father doing this?'"

Caleb thought about following in his father's footsteps and becoming a veterinarian, but when he received a TC Presidential Scholarship and enrolled in Mark Storey's biology class during his first semester, he changed his mind.

"Even though it was very hard, he was a great teacher," he said. "On top of baseball, I decided that business sounded a lot better."

After completing two years at TC, Caleb transferred to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to play baseball for former TC baseball coach Will Bolt. Now, Caleb works for Bechtel Corporation in the Houston area, where he works as a purchasing specialist for the first liquefied natural gas export project in the U.S.

From the 1950s to the 2000s, through three generations and three very different careers, Texarkana College has been a constant for the Hawkins family.

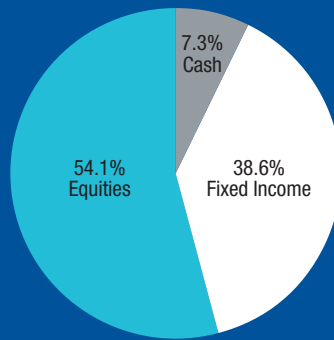
"My first day here was almost six years ago," Caleb said. "I'm still very thankful I went to school here. I'm constantly seeing where TC is still helping me along the way."

# The year in GIVING

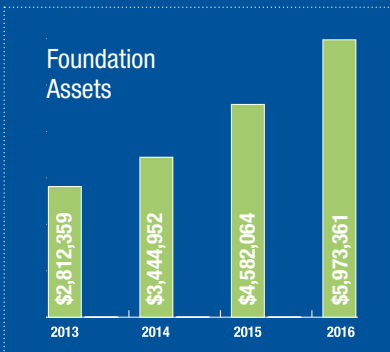
TC FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS | FALL 2015-2016

## \$2,583,262

private donations (college & foundation)



Foundation Investments



6.9%  
fiscal  
year  
asset  
return

**\$349,419**  
in scholarships awarded to  
**266 students**

**39** named endowments  
(donations of \$25,000+)



TEXARKANA COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## BOARD

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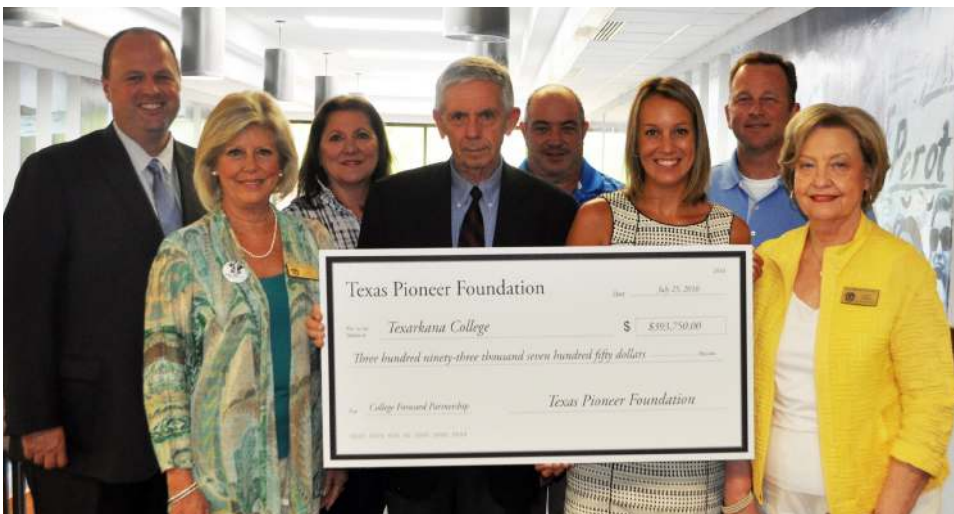
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## Texas Pioneer Foundation supports student success partnership

In July, the Texas Pioneer Foundation committed \$393,750 to Texarkana College over three years to help fund a partnership with College Forward, an Austin-based college access and success program. College Forward was founded in 2003 and features intensive, culturally appropriate mentoring programs designed to propel low-income students to collegiate success and remunerative careers. Through three on-site coaches, College Forward will serve approximately 360 Texarkana College students.

*Pictured: James Henry Russell, TC President; Jane Daines, TC Trustee; Kaye Ellison, TC Trustee; Fred Markham, Texas Pioneer Foundation Executive Director; Ernie Cochran, TC Trustee; Katie Andrus, TC Foundation Director; Ken Reese, TC Trustee; Anne Farris, TC Trustee*



**Texarkana College has truly become my home. I never imagined I would receive the generosity and help that I have here at TC. I'm so glad I chose to start here."**

**Viola Simmons  
2016 Presidential Scholar**

## *Student* SPOTLIGHT

# Viola Simmons

### **Life is a balancing act, and Viola Simmons learned that at an early age—earlier than most.**

"My childhood, in one word, would be 'unstable,' but it taught me so much that I never would have learned otherwise," she said.

She watched her mother over-zealously spend the family's food stamps in the first week, leaving the family to suffer for the rest of the month. At the age of nine, she learned the importance of budgeting. At the age of 13, she learned about loss.

"I understood how powerful addictions could be when my mother chose her habit over her children," she said. Viola, her sister, and her twin brother were on their own.

Viola knew early on that she could break free from the cycle of poverty if she was willing to work hard. She learned how to channel her frustration about her home life into other outlets such as band, academics and work. She excelled at school, especially in band, where

she played the French horn. She made the Texas All-State Band twice and was drum major of the New Boston High School band.

She landed her first job as a skating carhop at Sonic when she was 16. At the same time, she was earning her certified nursing assistant license through Texarkana College's dual credit program while attending high school. She began juggling her carhop job with a CNA job at Ponderosa Nursing, working nights and attending school during the day. She also earned International Sports Sciences Association certification and worked as a personal trainer at Anytime Fitness.

When Viola had time to sleep, she either split rent with her sister or slept on a friend's couch. Instability in her home life inspired her to keep pushing.

"Among all of these, I knew I had to focus on school and band to get into college on a full ride," she said. "If I wasn't at work I was at band, Health Occupations Students of America, Student Council, or studying for school and the ACT. I learned how to manage my time and make the most out of every minute. It was the busiest time of my life, but I loved it."

By the time she graduated, Viola was 8th in her class with a 3.9 GPA. She had taken the ACT 11 times. Her hard work had earned her a

## About the Presidential Scholarship

### Who qualifies

Graduating high school seniors in the top 15% of their class who meet stringent academic criteria.

### What it covers

Full tuition and fees for up to two years or 60 semester credit hours at Texarkana College.

### Scholarship perks

Students are admitted into the TC Honors College, which gives them cohort classes, priority registration, and exclusive networking and leadership opportunities.

### How it's funded

The TC Presidential Scholarship is completely funded by private donors through the TC Foundation.

Each scholarship is valued at

**\$10,000**

**&**

**122 students**

are receiving the scholarship  
this semester

#### 2015 & 2016 AWARDS BREAKDOWN BY SCHOOL

New Boston High School.....	14
Pleasant Grove High School .....	5
Maud High School.....	5
Queen City High School.....	8
Atlanta High School.....	7
Linden High School .....	4
Bloomberg High School.....	17
McLeod High School .....	9
DeKalb High School .....	8
Arkansas High School .....	8
Avery High School.....	7
Hooks High School.....	8
James Bowie High School.....	11
Liberty-Eylau High School .....	14
Redwater High School.....	14
Texas High School.....	14
Washington Academy.....	3

full band scholarship to Henderson State University, but when she got to campus that fall, she found that her scholarship amount had been changed. She could no longer afford to attend, so she drove home. Viola didn't throw herself a pity party. Instead, she drove straight to Texarkana College to enroll for the fall.

"From the moment I walked into the registrar's office, individuals have been going out of their way to help me," she said.

When TC staff learned she didn't have a place to stay, they stepped in to help. Soon, she had moved into the Texarkana College apartments.

"Just a month ago, I was sleeping on a friend's couch with my belongings in my car," she said. "Today, I woke up to peace and quiet, a place for my things, and a fully functioning kitchen. It is easily the nicest place I've ever lived, and I am so thankful."

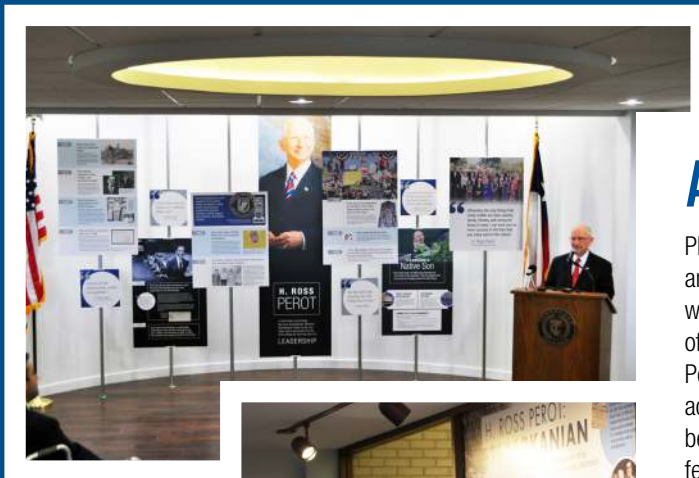
Now Viola is taking 15 hours along with a campus work-study job and a position as a CNA at Cornerstone. Despite her initial setback, a scholarship and grant opportunities at TC helped her start college and gain her footing.

"I'm doing great," she said. "This is the most stress-free I have ever been. Life is scary good."

# Giving THANKS



Without the support of our donors, the TC Foundation would not be able to award life-changing scholarships to deserving students. This year, we were proud to unveil a donor wall listing our endowed funds, accompanied by plaques honoring our annual donors. The donor wall is located on the second floor of the Truman Arnold Student Center.



## A tribute to leadership

Phase II of the Perot Leadership Museum honoring donor and alumnus H. Ross Perot is now complete. Along with a life-sized replica of his father's Texarkana cotton office, the museum features permanent exhibits outlining Perot's boyhood in Texarkana along with his many lifetime achievements. A rotating exhibit space will periodically be updated to feature new leaders. The museum also features a Leadership Classroom that is available for students and community organizations to use. Located in the center of the Palmer Memorial Library.

*Above: A rotating exhibit space will be periodically updated to feature new leaders.*



*Perot tours the permanent exhibit with TC President James Henry Russell on opening day.*

## ENDOWED FUNDS

The Texarkana College Foundation would like to thank the generous donors who have donated \$25,000 or more to establish named Endowed Funds that provide scholarships and institutional support for years to come. Learn about endowed funds at [texarkanacollege.edu/foundation](http://texarkanacollege.edu/foundation).

Mr. and Mrs. Robill Roberts | 1987  
Dr. and Mrs. William Patterson | 1989  
Tracy Lawrence | 1990  
Wilbur Smith | 1991  
Bess and Tom Wilbanks | 1991  
Fay and Sam Shuman | 1992  
Margaret Montgomery | 1993  
Senator David and Barbara Pryor | 1993  
Gladys and Walter Harbison | 1994  
Dr. and Mrs. Carl Nelson | 1994  
Norma Nelson | 1994  
Thomas Associates | 1994  
Corinne Davis | 1995

Shirley Finn | 1995  
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### 1927 Society \$1,000,000+

H. Ross Perot  
Anonymous

### Silver & Blue Society \$100,000+

Anonymous Trust at BancorpSouth

### Bulldog Society \$25,000+

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### \$1,000+

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The TC Foundation would like to thank its annual donors. If you would like to donate before the end of the year, please return the enclosed envelope or call Katie Andrus at 903-823-3125.

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COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION



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Permit No. 53



2016 Presidential Scholars

# *Year-end* **GIVING**

At Texarkana College, we're proud of who we are and the people we serve. In this annual report, you'll see how our grants and scholarship programs are changing lives. As we approach the end of the year, please consider making a donation to the Texarkana College Foundation using the enclosed envelope or by calling Katie Andrus at 903-823-3125.