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Goldsby Family, Scholars Receive Recognition at MSCC President's Reception

Mid-South Community College recognized scholarship contributors, participants, and committee members during the annual President's Reception Honoring the Thomas B. Goldsby Scholars on Thursday, April 14.

The Goldsby Scholarship Program sponsors financial awards for qualified high school students to attend MSCC classes and earn a substantial number of hours toward their college degrees.

"This program has great potential for maximizing our resources as a state and promoting a more seamless educational progression for our students and their parents," MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter told the crowd. "We are truly blessed to have the benefit of the Goldsby family and their philanthropy right here in our community."

"The Goldsby Scholarship program has saved local students and their families, over the course of this program's life since 2001, an estimated \$8.1 million. It is staggering. The students and parents who have been involved in this program are being given an opportunity that truly is remarkable."



One former Goldsby Scholar and three current recipients talked about how the program has benefitted them.

“In the eleventh grade, I was able to enter the wonderful Goldsby program and spend my afternoons at the college,” said Kristen Evance, 18, a 2010 graduate of Marion High School and a sophomore at MSCC. “My senior year I became a full-time college student along with finishing my credits at the high school. Through it all, the precious Goldsby family made it possible for me to complete 24 credit hours tuition free.”



“All of the students here are further along in their college career because of the Mr. and Mrs. Goldsby. Without the Goldsby Scholarship, I would not have been able to accomplish so much because of financial limitations. I give all of the Goldsby family a huge thanks.”

Dustin Walter, a senior at Marion High School who will graduate with high honors, said it is difficult to adequately communicate what the Goldsby Scholarship program means to him.

“I cannot say how grateful I am to the Goldsbys for allowing me to do this because it’s a wonderful program with many benefits,” Walter said. “One of the main benefits, I think, is being ahead of my future classmates. Now I kind of know what college life is going to be like, so I’ve adjusted accordingly.”

“It’s not just the money that makes this program wonderful; it’s also the skills that I have learned from it. Through taking my college classes at MSCC, I’ve improved my communication skills, my time management, and my study habits. Also, I’ve had to mature while in this program. I appreciate everything the Goldsbys have done for all of us. They have enriched our community and made our futures brighter.”

West Memphis High School honor graduate Chelsea Turner said she greatly appreciates the Goldsbys for their generosity and kindness.

“Words cannot express how truly grateful I am for the opportunity for me and so many others to take classes without worrying about the cost,” Turner said. “I have been surrounded by caring and wonderful people who want me to excel in my life and career, and the Goldsbys are among the people I’m talking about. If not for their help, I would

not be a step closer to my dream, and I wouldn't have been able to take classes which have enabled me to be better prepared."

"Most importantly, I wouldn't have met so many wonderful students and faculty members who have



enabled me to be more mature and learn so many other skills besides what's in our textbooks. It's more than just...money; it's about how the money is affecting generations and generations of people. They don't just give us the college education; they give us an experience of a lifetime."

West Memphis Christian student Aaron Crouch said he had never "encountered more generous people than the Goldsbys."

"To receive such a gift as a Goldsby Scholarship is an honor in itself," Crouch said. "This honor is made even more profound by its near unconditional nature. Thanks to the selflessness of the Goldsbys, I and many other students have been able to take college classes while still in high school free of cost, giving us an advantage over other high school students not lucky enough to be part of this great program."

"I will earn up to 24 college credits while still in high school. Not only will this help my family financially, it will also help prepare me for life in a college setting."

Since its inception in 2001, the Goldsby Scholarship program has provided 2,209 awards that have given students the opportunity to compete more than 12,000 college credit hours. Goldsby Scholars have continued their higher education at more than 125 of the nation's top colleges and universities and have earned more than 200 degrees and certificates.

Dr. Fenter praised the Goldsbys for their "amazing generosity" and encouraged parents and others in attendance to help keep the scholarship funding at an optimum level.

"Unless something changes, this will be the largest group of scholars because the program has outgrown, by far, the resources that are available," he explained, noting that the Goldsby endowment provides \$50,000 a year to the program. "We're currently

spending \$100,000 more a year than the endowment can support, and that's simply more than this institution can continue to bear.”

“There will certainly always be a Goldsby program, but it may be limited to fewer courses or certain disciplines to help us reduce the cost. Those are all things that the Goldsby Advisory Committee will be dealing with in the near future. If parents of students who have benefitted from this program would only pledge one-tenth of what they have saved, we could continue this program at its current level.”

For information on Goldsby Scholarship opportunities at the college, please call MSCC at (870) 733-6728. For information on contributing to the innovative scholarship fund, please contact Patti Coleman, MSCC Director of Advancement, at (870) 733-6764 or at pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu. The Foundation is also offering direct on-line giving through the College's website, www.midsouthcc.edu (point to the MSCC Foundation link, and click on Give Now).