

ORCA ANNOUNCES \$25,000 NURSING ENDOWMENT AT BCC

Nearly 100 Ocean Ridgers jammed the Plantation Club on September 9th for the surprise announcement that the Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA) was launching a \$25,000 scholarship program at Brunswick Community College. The fund will be known as the Ocean Ridge—David Kelly Nursing Scholarship Endowment. Attending the event was the new BCC president, Dr. Susanne Adams, Mike Capaccio, CEO of the BCC Foundation, Ed and Dinah Gore along with the first student recipient of the scholarship, Ms. Wyshanique Reyna.

In addressing the crowd, Capaccio acknowledged that “Ocean Ridge is the first Brunswick County residential community to endow its own scholarship, which is a stellar accomplishment. While we are blessed with support from other neighborhoods, we are hopeful that the ORCA initiative can be replicated elsewhere.”

Award recipients under the new scholarship program are chosen by the college’s scholarship selection committee. Under the criteria set by ORCA, prospective recipients must have achieved sophomore status with a 3.0 cumulative GPA in the nursing curriculum, be a resident of Brunswick County with demonstrated financial need and a U.S. citizen. The Ocean Ridge—Kelly endowed scholarship provides a one semester, tuition and textbook award, each academic year.

Ms. Reyna thanked the community for their generosity and for “...believing in me.” She expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Kelly and to her late husband David for having the vision to create a scholarship opportunity to help students like her. Ms. Reyna, 26, is a resident of Bolivia, the mother of two and a nursing AA degree candidate. She intends to pursue an RN degree after graduation from BCC.

Dr. Adams walked the crowd through the demographics of students attending BCC including the fact that over 70% are receiving some sort of student financial aid. “These scholarships make a huge difference in the lives of these students. Without them, they wouldn’t walk through our doors.”

“This scholarship endowment is a milestone for our community,” said Mike Gildea, President of ORCA. “We’re barely a year old, yet our vision all along has been that, through our very own Ocean Ridge community-wide charity, we could make a difference and change lives. What better way to do that than through the gift of education.”

Ocean Ridge resident and ORCA Board of Directors member Amy Kelly—whose late husband, David, started a nursing scholarship at the BCC Foundation in memory of his sisters who were both in the medical field—remarked that “An endowed scholarship was his dream, and the generosity of Ocean Ridge residents made that dream a reality.”

For more information about the scholarship or ORCA, contact Amy Kelly or Mike Gildea.