A Legacy of Giving

By Jason Collins, Editor at the Bee-Picayune

BEEVILLE — Family, friends and board members gathered on December 17, 2012 to honor R.W. Dirks for his long tradition of helping not only the college but its students.

College President Dr. Beatriz Espinoza said, “He is a genuine and sincere individual who loves Bee County College and Coastal Bend College, and I think he should be our inaugural member of the Founders Circle Legacy Club.”

Espinoza described Dirks as one who established a "legacy of giving.

Since 2003, she said, he has contributed $170,000.

Dirks once again made a donation to the Coastal Bend College Foundation – this time in the amount of $25,000.

Dirks served on the college board from 1971 until 2008.

“He has always been a good steward of every penny the college has gotten,” Jaure said. “Not only being a good steward but wanting to continue to build up what we are wanting to do at Coastal Bend College.”

In 2005, the Student Services Building was named in his honor.

And, as Jaure pointed out, the room in which they were present, the Sandy Dirks Board room, was named in honor of his wife.

Espinoza praised Dirks and his family, who have continued this legacy of giving, saying to Dirks, “You have had a hand and made a very positive imprint on many lives and for generations to come.”

While the highlight was his connection to the college and its foundation, his legacy dates back further than that.

Susan Smedley, director of marketing and public relations, said, “Prior to serving on the board of the college, he was on the Pettus ISD school board.

“We know archivally throughout the years with newspaper articles we kept that, whenever we had a reported comment (from Dirks), it is about the students.

“That is what this institution is about.

“That is one of the most tremendous legacies you could leave to anyone.

“It is about the individual and the individual impact to this college. You have been a huge part of that, Mr. Dirks.”

For more information about how you can help support Coastal Bend College, please contact the Coastal Bend College Foundation at (361) 354-2447 or via email at foundation@coastalbend.edu.

Photo: R.W. Dirks, left, presents CBC President Dr. Beatriz T. Espinoza, right, with a donation to the Coastal Bend College Foundation. The donation will go towards the R.W. Dirks Endowment.