



VALENCIA FOUNDATION

Board of Trustees Report

July 16, 2013

HELP A VALENCIA STUDENT BE THE FIRST FAMILY GRADUATE

The foundation kicked off its First One campaign this month at CJI, which is serving as campaign headquarters, where volunteers can manage their fundraising efforts and are conducting a donor thank-a-thon.

Board members, faculty, staff and students mingled during the carnival-themed launch and listened to a first-generation scholar tell his story. Donald Gibson, who earned an associate degree, has returned Valencia to earn an additional associate and a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Donald's mother always wanted him to go to college, but she couldn't afford it. Instead he joined the Marines, serving overseas. The GI Bill helped Donald begin to realize his educational dreams, and it was while working at Valencia that he found his passion – making life better for fellow military professionals. He serves the Veterans Administration at Valencia, helping returning soldiers and their dependents maximize educational benefits.

Geraldine Gallagher and Dr. Joyce Romano also spoke, and Joyce surprised guests by presenting a check to endow the Cliff Romano Family Scholarship in honor of her parents and family.

The First One campaign is a six-week online effort to raise money for deserving students who just need a chance to succeed. To make a donation, please visit: www.VALENCIA.ORG/FirstOne.

Every dollar counts, no matter how large or how modest. Every gift makes a difference.

THE MEARS FAMILY: LOCAL HEROES WIN NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Paul Jr. and Deb Mears have won the prestigious 2013 Benefactor Award, given by the Council for Resource Development, an American Association of Community Colleges affiliate. The prize recognizes donors for extraordinary contributions to advance the community college mission.

Paul and Deb were recognized for philanthropy, service and the Mears' long-standing support of Valencia. The family's contributions started in the '90s and include an endowed scholarship, a major gift, and significant in-kind and event support.

Mears Transportation Group pledged \$1 million to establish the Paul Mears Sr. Take Stock in Children Fund, which helps at-risk youngsters with personal mentors and a college scholarship.

In honor of the gift, the West Campus student hub was renamed the Paul Mears Sr. Student Services Building.

Dr. Shugart will introduce Paul and Deb when they are lauded at the national Benefactor Awards Banquet this November in Washington, D.C.

Raymer Maguire Jr. received this celebrated accolade in 1997, the last time Valencia Foundation board of directors submitted a candidate.



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