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50th Anniversary Gala - President Denson's Thank You

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50th Anniversary Gala

Thank you for joining us in celebrating DMACC’s 50th Anniversary! What a great evening! Although Senator Jack Kibbie was unable to attend, we would like to acknowledge him and his work to sponsor the Iowa Senate Bill in 1965 that established Iowa's Community Colleges. His work provided the impetus that allowed us all to gather and celebrate. And celebrate we did!

It was wonderful to host DMACC alumni from near and far and to recognize a member of DMACC’s very first graduating class—Neville Mangra of Pierson, Florida. Dennis Albaugh, 1970 alumnus from the Agriculture Business Program, presented Neville with a medallion commissioned for the 50th anniversary celebration by the DMACC Tool and Die Program. Neville was one of 12 graduates who received his degree in the fall of 1968. This is quite a contrast from the nearly 3,000 graduates who earned their degree this spring. Our dedicated and loyal alumni stay involved and give back, time and time again. In fact, we were surprised with some exciting news from Dennis Albaugh at the event! Congratulations to Dennis, Susan and the Albaugh Family for their horse, Brody's Cause, running in this year’s Kentucky Derby. It was a very exciting week for DMACC and for all of Central Iowa leading up to the Derby and we appreciate the continued generosity and support of DMACC and our students from the Albaugh family. We are so proud to be “your University!”

Additionally, a very special thank you to representatives from Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa for presenting DMACC with a handcrafted one-of-a-kind glass bowl to commemorate our partnerships and anniversary. The bowl was created by the Iowa State University Glass Guild and showcases the colors of each of the three Universities, as well as our DMACC blue. We are very thankful for our partnerships with these institutions and look forward to future collaborative initiatives that benefit students.

It is because of these exciting partnerships, and many others throughout the communities we serve, that the DMACC Foundation was able to announce $1 million in scholarship allocations to DMACC students for the 2016-17 academic year—the largest scholarship allocation in the history of the DMACC Foundation! The impact this will have on our students is tremendous. It will allow many more students to attend DMACC and to achieve their educational goals. And what better audience to unveil DMACC Delivers, DMACC’s first comprehensive major gifts campaign! We announced at the Gala that the campaign has raised $36 million of the $50 million goal over the next five years. DMACC Delivers provides the framework for us to better serve students, our communities, employers and the State of Iowa by providing access to education through scholarships, enhanced programming and state-of-the-art learning facilities.

Looking back, we could not be more proud to celebrate the incredible institution that DMACC has become—and more grateful, to do it with our DMACC family—our faculty, staff, community partners, donors, alumni and friends.

We want to give special thanks to Dr. Simon Estes, DMACC’s first Visiting Professor of Music, for his moving invocation. And let’s not forget the fantastic music and entertainment provided by the Ken Arlen Evolution Orchestra. They had us dancing right up until the very end of the evening!

It’s been a wonderful 50 years and we look forward to our next 50!

Thank you for all you do to support DMACC.

Rob Denson