

recognition

OF LIFETIME GIVING TO DC

*Honoring those who support Defiance College
year in and year out*

by Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

As visitors enter Serrick Center and pass the alcove outside the Admissions office, they'll doubtless be drawn to a new feature in the building – the lifetime giving recognition wall. This earth-toned display is an elegant understatement of the millions of dollars of loyal support Defiance College has received from those whose names are etched on the mounted tiles and the huge impact these entities have had on the college.



Former vice president of Institutional Advancement Rich Pejeau notes that it was apparent during the campaign that the college needed to recognize the outstanding support it had received.

“The steering committee for the Transforming Difference Campaign did some investigation into how donors might like to be recognized,” said Pejeau. “We discovered that donors didn’t want to receive a gift or be presented with an award. Very few people make a gift to receive public accolades. But it is important to honor those donors leading the Transforming Difference Campaign, recognizing the changes they were bringing about at the college. It was concluded that one tangible way to commemorate their generosity to the college was with a cumulative giving wall.”

Wendy Pestrue, DC’s new vice president of Institutional Advancement explained that the wall recognizes the lifetime generosity of those who have believed in Defiance College and who have financially supported its mission over the years, not only during this most recent campaign.

“This is Defiance College’s way of saying thank you to these outstanding contributors and letting visitors, students and prospective students know the college is successful because of support that comes from all corners -- individuals, businesses, organizations.”

WENDY PESTRUE

Lifetime giving is recognized in four categories: The Harold and Helen McMaster Society for cumulative giving of \$1 million and more; the Gordon and Katharine Dix Society, \$500,000 to \$999,999; the William Holgate Society recognizing contributions of \$250,000 to \$499,999; and the Ardella Blade Society, \$100,000 to \$249,999.

Plenty of space has been reserved for growth, and in fact, Pestrue noted there are new names to be added just since the recognition wall has been created.

As the display reads, “A distinguished group of individuals and organizations whose outstanding generosity demonstrates a commitment to the tradition of yesteryear and the vision of tomorrow.” ♦