FKCC President Emeritus Increases Bequest to College

KEY WEST, FL, May 18, 2011—Florida Keys Community College President Emeritus Dr. William A. Seeker shared formal plans with college officials on Monday to substantially increase his bequest to support the college through the FKCC Foundation. His amended will directs the majority of his estate to go toward the creation of three endowments, enabling the former president of 28 years to continue his legacy of generosity, dedication, and service to the college in perpetuity.

Seeker’s gift includes a $2 million endowment for the Sue and Albert Seeker First Generation in College Scholarship Fund, which he established with a gift of $125,000 in 2007. In memory of his parents, he created the scholarship to help students who, like him, are the first in their families to attend college. He will also leave a $500,000 endowment for ongoing support and maintenance to the college library. The residual of his estate will be endowed for an academic trust fund to be used to purchase educational and instructional equipment.

“I’ve been either a student, teacher, administrator, or president for 50 years, so as an old veteran, I know the ongoing needs of a college,” said Seeker. “FKCC is my baby. I spent almost three decades of my life there and I’m glad that I can do what I plan to do.”

Seeker, who is affectionately known as “Doc” at FKCC, served as president of the southernmost college from 1979 to 2007. During his tenure, he oversaw the development and expansion of many academic programs, student services, and college facilities. Most notably, he garnered legislative support and $40 million to fund the 1997 rebuilding of the Key West Campus, which now bears his name. Upon his retirement in 2007, the FKCC Board of Trustees bestowed the title of FKCC President Emeritus on Seeker.

“Raised by parents with eighth and third grade educations, Bill Seeker soared from his meager economic environment to be in a position to significantly affect the lives of countless FKCC students with his unparalleled generosity and kindness,” remarked Dr. Larry Tyree, FKCC President. “When combined with his 28 years as president of FKCC, I can think of no better legacy than his $3 million gift which will serve the college and especially its students forever.”

For more information about planned giving opportunities to support FKCC students and programs, contact the FKCC Foundation Director Patti Carey at 305-809-3299.

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