



News | Dec 30, 2011

Remembering Seattle Community Colleges Founder George Corcoran

SEATTLE – George Corcoran, who was a founder and leader of the Seattle Community College District, and a respected civic and business leader, died Dec. 27 in Seattle.

In 1967, shortly after the State Community College Act created a community college system separate from K-12 schools, Mr. Corcoran joined the team that was establishing the Seattle District. He served as Executive Assistant to the founding President of the District, Dr. Ed K. Erickson; then as Administrative Vice President, equivalent to the chief operating officer; and finally, as District President from 1974 to 1977.

Although he left the District in 1977 to form a successful consulting firm, Mr. Corcoran continued to play a lifelong role with Seattle Community Colleges, providing planning, fund raising, and professional advice. In recent years, he especially appreciated the fact that more than one million students have been served by the District that he helped to create.

“George set the vision for the District we have become today,” said Chancellor Jill Wakefield. “He embraced the idea of opportunity for all to pursue higher education and encouraged all of us to set and achieve high goals.”

“George was our beacon during our good times – when we completed the nation’s largest community college fund-raising campaign, when Seattle Central was recognized as a Time Magazine College of the Year, and when the District was invited to join the League for Innovation in the Community College,” said Chancellor Wakefield. “He was also a friend and colleague during our challenging times.”

In recent decades, in honor of his children, Craig and Carol Corcoran, George and his wife, Cleo, established memorial scholarship endowments to benefit future generations of students at each of the three Seattle Community Colleges campuses, as well as a Chancellor’s Educational Excellence Endowment to support the District’s mission.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 am on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at St. James Cathedral, 804 Ninth Avenue, in Seattle.

The Craig and Carol Corcoran Memorial Endowment Funds: Those who wish to make a contribution to a college memorial scholarship endowment or to the chancellor’s endowment should send it to -

The Foundation for Seattle Community Colleges
Craig and Carol Corcoran Memorial Endowment Fund
1500 Harvard Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122

For more information, contact the District Office of Advancement: (206) 934-6325

The Seattle Community Colleges: The Seattle Community College District serves 51,000 students every year at Seattle Central, North Seattle and South Seattle Community Colleges; Seattle Vocational Institute; and four specialized training centers, including Seattle Maritime Academy, Wood Construction Center, New Holly Learning Center and the Georgetown Campus.

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