

Lawson State Community College

Foundation Board

The Lawson State Community College Foundation was formed in the early nineteen nineties when several interested persons traveled to pledge their support of the college's undertakings. The organizational meeting of the Board of Directors consisted of Mr. Comer Cottrell, who was elected President, The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, Dr. Shelly Stewart, Mr. Paul Harris, Ms. Charlena Bray, Mr. Tim Lewis, Rev John Nettles, and Ms. Peggy Clark. Also in attendance were Dr. Ethel Hall, Dr. Willie Kimmons, Dr. Bettye Berry, and Dr. Calvin Rolark. Slated to attend but unable to do so were Mr. George Sherling, Mrs. Gaile Pugh Gratton, Mr. E. Gene Thrasher, Mr. Theophilus, and Dr. Eddie Blankenship.

Lawson State Community College's president, Dr. Perry W. Ward, served as Chairman and Secretary of the meeting. His first action was to obtain acceptance of the Articles of Incorporation, creating the Foundation. The number of "initial Board of Directors" was changed from nine to fourteen. Selected Board Members would serve until their successors were elected and qualified. Paul Harris was elected President; Charlena Bray was elected secretary; and Tim Lewis was elected Vice President and Treasurer.

The Foundation, which operates as a separate entity from Lawson State Community College but, in the interest of Lawson State, was officially incorporated on February 9, 1995. Chartered under the laws of the state of Alabama as a non-profit, educational corporation, the purpose of the Lawson State Foundation would serve to empower, encourage, receive and administer gifts for the exclusive benefit of the College, its students, and its staff. Primarily, it would raise money for a permanent endowment for the College including receiving and maintaining a fund or funds of real or personal property.

The Foundation Board has enthusiastically supported and promoted academic, cultural and sports activities on behalf of the College with departmental fundraisers, golf tournaments, the purchase of a bus for college transportation, and the launching of the Capital Campaign Drive which allows persons to purchase and dedicate brick pavers. Its contributions have been used for construction of the college's most recent high technology building. Now, the imposing building, officially named the Perry W. Ward Advanced Technology and Training Center, blends education, training, and technology resources to meet the changing needs of students, employers and the community.

Today, the Lawson State Community College Foundation remains committed to the College and its present activities and looks with even greater anticipation to future endeavors.