

INTOUCH

NIACC Receives \$1.5 Million Gift for Scholarships

Betty Geer lived modestly and didn't especially like attention. No one suspected that she was capable of giving back to North Iowa in the way that she has following her death in 2001. In her will, Betty left Lee Enterprise stock valued at approximately 1.5 million dollars to the NIACC Foundation. The College announced the gift last fall, following the settlement of her estate.

"This gift is more than money; it is a large vote of confidence, expressed in a huge planned gift, from Betty Geer," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

"This is one of the largest single gifts to the College, and it will significantly impact the lives of thousands of students through the life of the scholarship fund. We are very thankful for her thoughtfulness and the sharing of her treasure."

The Mercy Cancer Center received a comparable share of stock, bringing Betty's investment in the North Iowa region to around three million dollars. Her generosity is impressive to say the least.

A native of Mason City, Betty graduated from Mason City High School. She attended Mason City Junior College from 1941 to 1942 and then Cornell College. In 1943 she began working as a bank teller for First National Bank in Mason City and retired after 16 years of service. She was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church and Daughters of the American Revolution. She enjoyed traveling, tending to her yard, and keeping up with the latest news around the nation and the world.

Betty's father, Lowell Geer, who worked many years for the Lee Enterprise-owned *Globe Gazette*, instilled in her a thirst for knowledge. She was keenly aware of the importance of education and knew that many students need financial help. As a result, she wanted to make sure students in the area have the same opportunity she had in pursuing an advanced education close to home.

Betty's longtime friend Nina Pals of Mason City said, "Higher education was a priority in her life. She is resting peacefully knowing her money is being put to use in the manner in which she really wanted it to."



Betty Geer

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for alumni and friends of North Iowa Area Community College

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Supporting Student Scholarships

While nearly 700 people applied for NIACC Foundation scholarships last year, just over 200 scholarship awards were available. For more information on how you can help the College acknowledge deserving students through scholarships, please contact the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

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