

April 13, 2003

Dear Editor:

I had the pleasure recently of attending Parkland College's Scholarship Reception. An overflow crowd filled the Tony Noel Ag Tech Center to honor 156 students who had been awarded 199 scholarships totaling more than \$139,300.00. The joy of this event is two-fold: seeing so many deserving students being given the opportunity to attend college, and having many of the donors there to meet the scholarship recipients. Few of us have the resources of a Donald Trump or Bill Gates. Many of the donors at the Parkland Scholarship reception are folks who have had a family member benefit from attending Parkland and want to thank the college. Establishing a scholarship in memory of a loved one, a favorite professor, or in a career area that you would like to see more students enter is a wonderful and lasting tribute. As a trustee, few college events are more rewarding, especially when a donor comes up and tells you, "This is the best thing I've ever done, helping someone to pursue their dream." It is worth considering becoming a donor and making a real difference for others.

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