

January 10, 2005

Dear Editor:

There are many people who live in Champaign-Urbana and surrounding communities who need the opportunities that a college education can provide. If they can't afford to go to college, how will they get ahead?

The Parkland College Foundation creates brighter futures for hundreds of people each year who, without financial assistance, couldn't attend college. This assistance comes from scholarship monies donated by companies, organizations, and individuals and ranges from \$100 stipends to full tuition and fee waivers. The Foundation administers scholarships in partnership with area hospitals for health professions students, for agriculture students, for women and men in nontraditional career fields, for older women returning to college after raising a family, and many more.

Many Parkland students are the first in their families to attend college. Many overcome challenges that make coming to class a daily struggle. Education gives them the skills and confidence to pursue their dreams and helps them become productive citizens that contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of our district.

In 2001, the Parkland Foundation embarked on a major gifts campaign to raise \$14 million by December 2005. As of December 2004, it has raised \$10 million. Please support the Foundation's efforts to "create brighter futures" for deserving students with scholarship assistance. Visit www.parkland.edu/foundation or call 217/351-2462 for more information.

Sincerely,

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Parkland College Trustee

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