

**East Georgia State College  
Bob Boehmer's Comments at  
CORRELL SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
10-13-2014  
10AM**

Imagine a bright future with me for a moment. What if, over the course of 5 years, 20 amazing students were selected each year to attend East Georgia State College on scholarship? Picture those students attending classes together under the tutelage of our outstanding faculty to hone their academic skills while identifying and designing solutions to community problems, and then giving back to their community by tutoring and mentoring high school students right here at the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center. Could those 100 students change the direction of our college and the region?

I strongly believe in that possibility and am excited to describe to you today why I believe that dream will, in fact, come to reality due to the generosity and leadership of Pete and Ada Lee Correll.

Pete and Ada Lee believe that the key to success in the future of this region is in providing an educated work force capable of seizing the job opportunities of tomorrow's businesses. In order to make that a reality in Emanuel County, the Correll's are making a transformational gift to East Georgia State College. The Correll Foundation has committed \$900,000 over the next five years to establish the Correll Scholars' Program at EGSC. The program, based on scholarship, leadership and service criteria, will offer \$5,000 scholarships to 20 students on the EGSC Swainsboro Campus annually beginning fall, 2015.

The college is deeply honored that Pete and Ada Lee Correl are with us today to celebrate this new Correll Scholars Program. It is especially fitting that this celebration take place in a building bearing the name of Ada Lee's mother. Sudie Fulford was a long-time Emanuel County educator and this Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center serves as the connection between the college and the community we serve. This building was also made possible by the philanthropy of Pete and Ada Lee Correl.

Please allow me to address two basic questions about this tremendous gift: What is a Correll Scholar? How will Correll Scholars be selected?

*First, what is a Correll Scholar? A Correll Scholar is:*

- A student who, following a competitive interview process, receives a \$5000 scholarship to attend East Georgia State College at its Swainsboro campus. Each year 20 entering freshmen will be selected to receive one of these scholarships;
- Each Correll Scholar, once selected, must maintain a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or greater while completing at least 26 credit hours;
- Each Correll Scholar will participate with other Correll Scholars in a one credit hour course each semester that focuses on understanding issues and challenges facing our region and designing solutions to those challenges; and
- Will participate actively each semester in the mentoring of high school students at this Fulford Community Learning Center; and

- Will, upon graduation from EGSC, have attained the college's Service Seal of Distinction.

***Second, how will Correll Scholars be selected?***

- Each scholar must first apply and be accepted to attend East Georgia State College on the Swainsboro campus;
- In addition, the applicants must complete a special Correll Scholars Program application. The heart of this application is a 1000 word essay describing how the applicant proposes to use this scholarship to transform your community; finally, all applicants will participate in interviews on campus on "Correll Scholars Selection Day" in early spring semester. Members of the selection committee will make selections based on the applicant's record of academic excellence, demonstrated leadership skills and demonstrated and active participation in activities making the community a better place.

As I mentioned before, all of this is possible due to the philanthropic spirit of the Corrells. Synonyms for the word philanthropy include benevolence, generosity, social conscience, charity, unselfishness,

humanity, kindness and compassion. These are words that perfectly describe the life and legacy of Pete and Ada Lee Correll. The Correll's have spent their lives providing opportunity to people across the state of Georgia. They have been particularly generous to the residents in their respective hometowns of Glynn County and Emanuel County.

So, please allow me to formally introduce Pete and Ada Lee Correll to you on the day of this special announcement.

Pete Correll is Chairman of Atlanta Equity and Chairman Emeritus of Georgia-Pacific. He serves as an outside director on the boards Norfolk Southern and SunTrust Banks. He is also Chairman of the Board of Grady Memorial Hospital and serves on the boards of the Georgia Aquarium, Empower Software Solutions, Consumer Financial Services, Marshall Physician Services, and The Mother Nature Network. Pete has also served as a board member, trustee or adviser for The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Keep America Beautiful, the President's Council on Sustainable Development, Atlanta Symphony, Boy Scouts of

America, the Institute of Paper Science and Technology, Grocery Manufacturers of America and The Carter Center. He was named one of *Georgia Trend* magazine's most influential Georgians and most respected business leaders; received the inaugural Louis C. Brown Vanguard Award from the Morehouse School of Medicine; and, along with Ada Lee Correll, received the Association of Fundraising Professionals' top philanthropy honor, the Paschal Murray Award for Outstanding Philanthropist.

Ada Lee Correll has chaired and led countless fundraising efforts for numerous nonprofit organizations, including organizing the Heart Ball for the American Heart Association. She has also served on the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta since 1995, twice leading their flagship fund raising event. She has been instrumental in fundraising with the Young Audiences of Atlanta division of the Woodruff Center for the Arts, now Arts for Learning, bringing arts education to the public schools. She was recently honored by the Woodruff Center as being a long term supporter, board member and volunteer.

The Corrells are key supporters of important partner programs of the College of Coastal Georgia, specifically the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia and The Elizabeth F. Correll Teen Center, named in honor of Pete's mother.

It is almost time at this point to turn the floor over to Pete and Ada Lee. Before we do that, however, there is one more important piece of business to be completed. I have reliable information that Ada Lee will be celebrating a birthday in the very, very near future – so please join Gilbert Westberry in singing happy birthday to Ada Lee.

Pete and Ada Lee, the floor is yours with our heartfelt thanks.