

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Monday, January 5, 2009 - 4:00 pm
Ladies' Lounge, Black Diamond Country Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Nancy Manafort, Sharron Rosenberg, Art Thomas, Bill Williams, Jim Wood, Linda Youell

Guest: Brenda Miley-Kelley,
Guidance Counsellor, Withlacoochee Technical Institute

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, Monday, January 5, 2009

2. Withlacoochee Technical Institute

Art Thomas introduced Ms Brenda Miley-Kelley, guidance counsellor and financial aid coordinator at Withlacoochee Technical Institute, part of Citrus County's public school system. Black Diamond Foundation has supported WTI with a \$10,000 grant for student scholarships, which have been awarded to students in all programs.

WTI offers one- and two-year programs, with tuition of \$1000 per semester. Seventy-five percent of WTI students qualify for Federal Pell Grants, which do not have to be repaid. Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or a professional degree. Students may receive other aid, in addition to Pell Grants.

The maximum Pell Grant for the 2008-09 award year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) is \$4,731. The maximum can change each award year and depends on Federal program funding. The individual student's award depends on financial need, costs to attend school, status as a full-time or part-time student, and attendance for a full academic year or less.

WTI is accredited by the Council of Occupation Education, which requires that 70% of students graduating from the programs find job placements. Accreditation is on a three-year cycle.

On average, WTI has a 75% graduation rate. Most students remain in the general three-county area (Citrus, Levy, Marion).

Some programs, such as nursing, corrections, and law enforcement are articulated with Central Florida Community College.

With the downturn in the economy, student applications to WTI are increasing. Pell Grants require that the student have a Grade 12 diploma, a General Educational Development Certificate, or have successfully completed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE).

WTI charges \$75.00 for the GED test battery, which can be a barrier to potential students who wish to improve their education and training. [Secretary's Note: Each jurisdiction sets its own GED fees.]

The Chairman thanked Ms Miley-Kelley for her presentation.

3. Review of Minutes, December 1, 2008

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

4. Treasurer's Report, December 31, 2008

Jim Briley reported that one scholarship recipient has not used the final \$500 available to her, and therefore he requested approval to move that amount to Unrestricted Funds, which currently totals \$46,761.

Registrations for the Foundation's 6th Annual pro-am golf tournament on January 28th are on pace for a full field, both golf professionals and amateurs. Village Cadillac Toyota Scion has provided its sponsorship funds.

5. Citrus Forward

At the Foundation's December 2008 meeting, Dave Burns and Bill Williams volunteered to review and report on training and rehabilitation programs in Citrus County, in view of the county's 9.4% unemployment rate.

Bill reported that he and Dave met with Dr Vernon Lawter, Provost of Citrus Campus of Central Florida Community College, and had prepared "Citrus Forward" - a proposal for a partnership between CFCC and Black Diamond Foundation targeting the educational and employment needs of the unemployed in Citrus County.

CFCC welcomes the opportunity, and would provide instructors and instructional space for the program. Bill distributed a draft curriculum outline for a three-week program.

ACTION: Dave Burns and Bill Williams will continue planning with Dr Lawter, and will report to the Foundation's February 2009 meeting.

6. Project List

Linda Youell distributed the list of projects reviewed, approved and funded, a/o December 31, 2008.

7. Pro-Am Update

Bill Joens reiterated Jim Briley's statement that registration is going well, with 31 or 32 teams expected, resulting in an anticipated net of \$33,000 for the Foundation.

8. Old Business

CASA -Nancy Manafort reported that the official opening of CASA's administration office is imminent. The Foundation granted CASA permission to include the logo of Black Diamond Foundation on signage for the "Jim Manafort - Black Diamond Foundation Playroom".

CCFRC - Sharron Rosenberg and Linda Youell reported that Citrus County Family Resource Center provided Christmas gifts for 1979 Citrus County children, an increase from 1850 children at Christmas 2007. Black Diamond members and residents sponsored 160 children, and 100 members and residents made cash donations to the Center.

Church Without Walls Food Give-a-Way - Jim Briley said that the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provided seven truckloads of food for the event on November 22, and was pleased with the results.

Homosassa We Care Food Bank - Bill Joens will attend the food distribution, Saturday, January 10, at 7:00 am.

9. New Business

MOVED BY: Sharron Rosenberg
SECONDED BY: Dave Burns

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc increase its scholarship support at Withlacoochee Technical Institute with an additional one-time \$1000 grant (One Thousand Dollars), and

That Black Diamond Foundation support the General Educational Development test program at Withlacoochee Technical Institute with a grant of \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars), to be used to pay GED test fees for those students who could not otherwise afford to write the GED tests.

APPROVED.

10. Information Distribution

Via e-mail, Linda Youell had distributed news stories and background information about

- Citrus County's December unemployment rate (9.4%),
- increased demand at food banks,
- increased applications for Food Stamps,
- increases in students eligible for free and reduced-cost school lunches,
- literacy rates in Florida.

She distributed additional information about

- November unemployment rates in Florida's counties (Citrus is eleventh highest),
- income eligibility guidelines for the school lunch and breakfast program (48.56% of Citrus County schools' students receive free- or reduced-price meals),
- Citrus County demographic information from "Well Florida Council"
- "Adopt-a-Classroom"

11. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Foundation will meet on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 4:00 pm in the Clubhouse Boardroom. Future meetings are Monday, March 2, 4:00 pm; and Monday, April 6, 4:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm, Monday, January 5, 2009.

Linda M Youell
18 January 2009