

# DINNER OF FIRSTS 2017

HONORING

## *Patsy Hazlerwood*



**REGGIE PIERCY, EVENT CHAIR**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 · THE CHATTANOOGAN



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**The mission of Chattanooga State**

Chattanooga State is an educationally purposeful community where faculty, staff, and students share academic goals and strive for high standards that lead to the attainment of degrees and certificates, meaningful careers, and a committed citizenry of lifelong learners.

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# DINNER OF FIRSTS 2017

Honoree

*Patsy Hazlewood*

## THE PROGRAM

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Reception	
7:00 p.m.	Seating for Dinner	
	Welcome	Reggie Piercy, Event Chair
	Invocation and Tribute to Tom Edd Wilson	Reverend Dr. William E. Dudley
7:30 p.m.	Master of Ceremonies	Jed Mescon, Erlanger Health System
7:35 p.m.	Opening Toast	Greg Vital, Morning Pointe Jeff Jackson, First Tennessee
7:40 p.m.	First in the Family	Dr. Rebecca Ashford
7:55 p.m.	Roasters	County Mayor Jim Copinger Grady Williams Dr. Phyllis Miller James O. Kennedy Ben Hazlewood
8:30 p.m.	Rebuttal	Patsy Hazlewood
8:45 p.m.	Adjournment	Reggie Piercy

Proceeds of the event fund scholarships for first-generation students and are divided equally between the annual First in the Family Scholarship and the Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Endowed Scholarship.



# PATSY HAZLEWOOD

Patsy Hazlewood was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee to Howard and Robie Daly. She grew up on a farm in Athens, Alabama, the oldest of four children and the only girl. She is the product of God-given intelligence and a lot of hard work, paying her own way to become the first in her family to attend college. Patsy attended the University of Alabama and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She also received advanced training and certification from the Strategic Professional Development program at Georgia Tech University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After a short stint teaching junior high mathematics, Patsy began her telephone career in Nashville in 1974. After several assignments in the Building Engineering and Real Estate departments, she came to Chattanooga in 1980 as business office manager.

Patsy started out as a management trainee and worked her way up to an executive position. She acquired more than 30 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, working with AT&T and BellSouth, becoming the Assistant Vice-President for Legislative and External Affairs and in other leadership capacities. She was part of the group that organized Capital Mark Bank & Trust, serving as a director there until the merger with Pinnacle Bank. Because of Patsy's successful business career, Governor Bill Haslam selected her to serve as the Regional Director for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Patsy managed the economic development of the ten-county southeastern region for just under 3 years. Elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2016 as State Representative for District 27 (the first female), Patsy represents this community with integrity, good sense, and efficiency.

Having been active in a number of business organizations, Patsy also served as former president of both the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce board and the Better Business Bureau board. In recognition of her business achievements, Patsy was the second woman ever to be honored as the Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year. In 2002, Patsy was honored for



## *Favorite Scripture:*

Philippians 4:13

*"I can do all this through Him  
who gives me strength."*

philanthropy as Leadership Fundraiser of the Year. In 2005, the Chattanooga Junior League recognized Patsy's service to the community by awarding her the club's annual Community Service Award. In 2009, Patsy was the first woman to be elected president of the downtown Chattanooga Rotary Club in the organization's 96-year history. Additionally, in 2012 the American Lung Association named Patsy the Tennessee Woman of Distinction.

Patsy has been a lifelong volunteer in the community, serving as the chair and board member of various community organizations such as: Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, United Way of Greater Chattanooga, Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, Bible in the Schools, The Enterprise Center, Friends of the Festival, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, Stadium Corporation, Speech and Hearing Center, Tennessee Aquarium, River City, Siskin Children's Institute, and T.C. Thompson's Children's Hospital Foundation.

Patsy is the widow of Hal Hazlewood, who she was married to for 38 years. She currently lives on Signal Mountain where she's an active member of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church serving as a trustee. She enjoys reading, hiking, and her grandchildren. Patsy is doubly blessed to have her family as neighbors in her district. Her son, Ben, along with his wife Jenny, have two sons: Hudson and Sawyer who attend Thrasher Elementary School on Signal Mtn. Patsy's step-daughter Lynda LeVan, also lives on Signal Mountain with her husband, Mike, and their two sons, who attend UTC and Signal Mountain High School, respectively.



## Congratulations Patsy Hazlewood

*"The future belongs to those  
who believe in the beauty  
of their dreams."*

—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

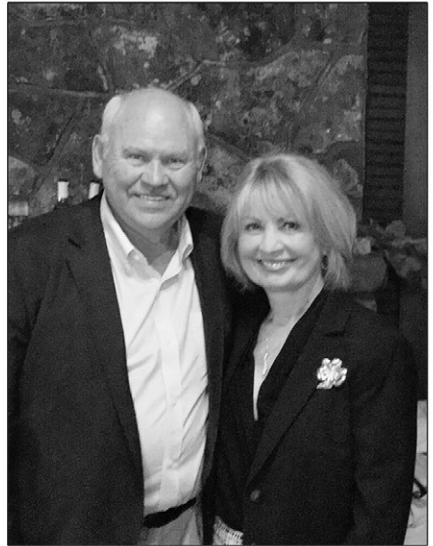
With best wishes,  
Grady & Phyllis Williams



# FAMILY



# FUN, FRIENDS & PHILANTHROPY







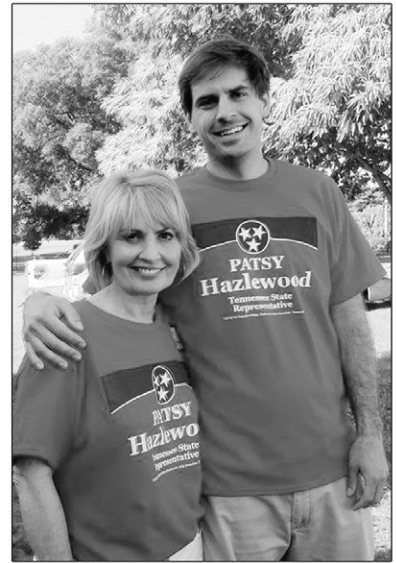
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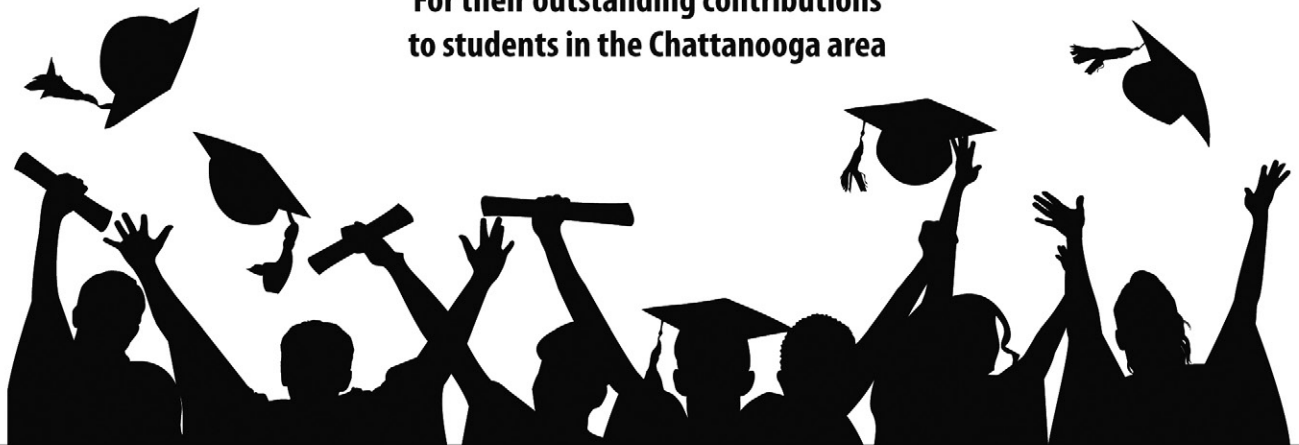


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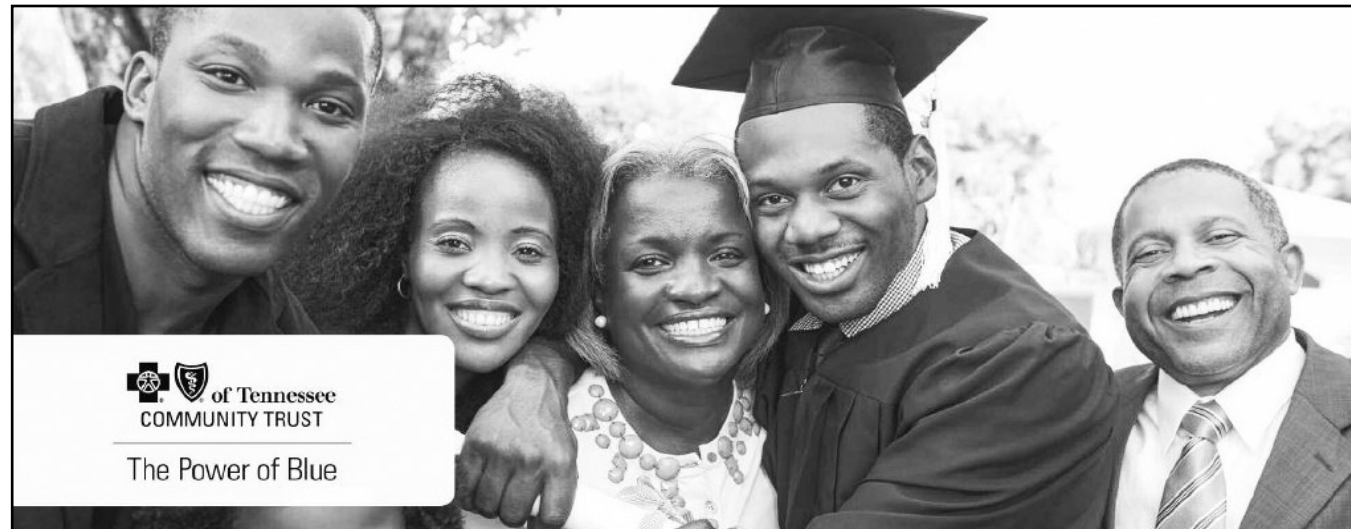
**We would like to thank all attendees for their support of First in the Family to fund  
scholarships for students who are the first in their families to attend college**





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## FIRST IN THE FAMILY SCHOLARS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

*I just wanted to thank you for your investment into my education and future. I plan to study engineering and work in the automotive field. I have interned this summer for an automotive supplier. I learned a lot about metal forming analysis, welding, and hot stamping. I love working and learning about the many engineering fields involved in the automotive industry. I am looking forward to being the first in my family to attend college and I want to thank you again for your support.*

*Sincerely, Jacob Bridenbaugh*

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*I would like to thank you for selecting me for the first in the family scholarship. I would like to tell you a little about myself. My name is Alexis and I am from Sale Creek, TN, which is about 25 minutes from Chattanooga. I am majoring in social work and would like to specialize in child abuse because I love kids and really want to make a difference to kids that need help. That is why it really means a lot to me that you selected me for the scholarship because my family can't help me pay for my books and I have to pay for them myself. In addition, since I am the first person in my family pursuing an education greater than high school, it's very important to my family that I finish school and get my degree. My family wants me to not have to struggle like they have and I want that for myself too. Thank you again for selecting me. It means more than you will ever know.*

*Sincerely, Alexis Stoker*

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*I am writing to thank you for choosing me to be the recipient of the First in the Family Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to know that I had been selected for this honor. I recently completed the Dental Assisting program at Chattanooga State in 2016, and I am very excited to be continuing my education to become a registered Dental Hygienist. Chattanooga State Community College is a great school, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of a wonderful program there. The financial assistance you have provided will help me greatly to lighten my financial burden throughout my last year in the Dental Hygiene Program. Your generous donation will assist me in paying for tuition and purchasing books and instruments needed for the program. Thank you so much again for your generosity in giving this scholarship. Your support will definitely help me in achieving my goals and continuing my education to become a hygienist.*

*Sincerely, Briley Stults*

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To donate to Chattanooga State Foundation's  
**Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Endowed Scholarship**



# WE FONDLY REMEMBER AND HONOR TOM EDD WILSON



Now in its 6th year, Chattanooga State's Dinner of Firsts honors those who have blazed trails and became the first in their family to graduate from college. These everyday heroes are community and corporate leaders, volunteers, and philanthropists whose names and stories inspire others to continue their education and achieve their dreams. Tom Edd Wilson was one of these heroes. Slated to be our honoree for Dinner of Firsts 2017, Tom Edd passed away suddenly on June 10th. His legacy of "giving back" lives on with the newly endowed Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Scholarship.

A native of Crossville, Tennessee, Tom Edd graduated from Cumberland County High School in 1958. The first in his family to attend college, he graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a BS in Accounting and from The Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Tom Edd spent more than 35 years in the banking industry, where he rose to become president of Bank of America's East Tennessee region. He was

named president and CEO of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce in 2001, where he served for the next 12 years. During that time, he led an extensive restructuring of the Chamber with the results undergirding the successful recruitment of Volkswagen, Amazon and Alstom, among many others, which brought thousands of jobs into the region.

Tom Edd was a noted fundraiser for community causes. His distinguished career and civic involvement led him to lend his support to many endeavors around the state. Most recently, he served as Co-Chair of the Erlanger Children's Hospital Capital Campaign alongside his close friend, Grady Williams. As Executive Director of the Aegis Foundation, he worked closely with Sheriff Jim Hammond in directing the non-profit Foundation that provides much needed financial support for law enforcement across Hamilton County.

He provided strong, competent leadership for Chattanooga's most significant fundraising efforts including the Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga, the United Way of Greater Chattanooga, and the Friends of Scouting Campaign for several years. He was involved in many organizations, and every one of those organizations benefited from his leadership and involvement. He helped make Chattanooga a better place.

All of us at Chattanooga State are grateful to First Tennessee Bank and Independent Healthcare Properties & Morning Pointe for providing the initial funds to establish the Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Endowed Scholarship. The Wilson Family Trust, Grady and Phyllis Williams, SunTrust Bank, Elder's Ace Hardware, and many others have made generous contributions to the scholarship. In addition, half the proceeds from tonight's dinner will go to this scholarship to help fund an education for first-generation students in perpetuity, leaving a lasting legacy to honor a beloved community champion.

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## DONORS TO THE TOM EDD WILSON FIRST IN THE FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

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- Wilson Family Trust
- Jo Ann C. Yates



## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Jed Mescon** is Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing and Development for Erlanger Health System. In this role, Jed oversees communications and marketing efforts supporting the health system's medical services, brand and outreach to the community.

Jed joined Erlanger after a successful, 28-year broadcast career with WRCB Channel 3 in Chattanooga. Most recently, he co-hosted the station's lifestyle show, 3 Plus You, for seven years.

In addition to his award-winning broadcast work, Jed has served as a Fund Development and Marketing Consultant for Chattanooga State, and as a talk show host with WGOW radio. Before moving to Chattanooga, he was a general assignment reporter with television in Charleston, Savannah and Atlanta.

In 2015, Jed received the first-place "Best of Best" Award as Best Television Personality in the Chattanooga Times Free Press annual readership poll. He was also recognized as "Outstanding Journalist" by the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations in 2011 and received the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" Award from the Chattanooga Civitan Club. In 2009, he was named "Outstanding Journalist of the Year" by the Tennessee Veterinarian Association.

Jed has served on the boards and advisory boards of numerous Chattanooga civic organizations, including the Greater Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Humane Educational Society, Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center, Chattanooga Zoo, Chattanooga Theatre Centre, Little Miss Mag Day Care Center, Chattanooga CARES HIV/AIDS Resource Center, St. Peter's Episcopal School, YMCA of Greater Chattanooga, Y-Me of Chattanooga, Chattanooga Chapter of the American Cancer Society and Senior Neighbors of Chattanooga.

Jed received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona; and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, in 2009. He and his wife Phyllis live in Signal Mountain, TN.

**Jed Mescon**  
**Vice President**  
**Public Relations, Market-**  
**ing & Development**  
**Erlanger Health System**



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## ROASTERS

**Grady Williams** has served as a CPA in the Chattanooga area for over 50 years and has received multiple honors for his leadership. A former Chattanooga State Foundation Board Member and first-generation college student, Grady was honored at the Chattanooga State Foundation's Dinner of Firsts 2013. He was named as Fundraiser of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 1999, and as Chattanooga Manager of the Year in 2010. Tennessee Tech University's School of Business honored Grady with the 2014 Outstanding Alumnus Award, and he was honored by the American Heart Association in 2014.

Grady has served in a wide variety of civic and philanthropic activities. He has served on numerous boards including the United Way, the University of Chattanooga Foundation, American Diabetes Association, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and the Tennessee River Gorge Trust. He is a former president of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga.

Grady and his wife, Phyllis, live on Signal Mountain and have two children and five grandchildren. They attend Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church where he has served as an Elder.



**Grady Williams**

## ROASTERS

**Jim Coppinger** is a life-long resident of Hamilton County and is a graduate of Hixson High School. He attended Chattanooga State and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He joined the City of Chattanooga Fire Department in October, 1977 where he rose through the ranks to become Fire Chief in 1997. Coppinger was elected to the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners in September 2006; he served two terms as Chairman Pro Tempore and one term as Chairman. He has served as Hamilton County Mayor since January 11, 2011. He serves on the Joint Economic and Community Development Board, the Workforce Investment Board, the Tri-State Regional Workforce Board, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, the River City Company Board of Directors, the Transportation Planning Organization, Board of the Hixson Civic Center and the Hixson Kiwanis. He is a member of Burks United Methodist Church. He is married to Nina Halmontaller Coppinger. They have two children, Lauren and Blake and a granddaughter, Avery.

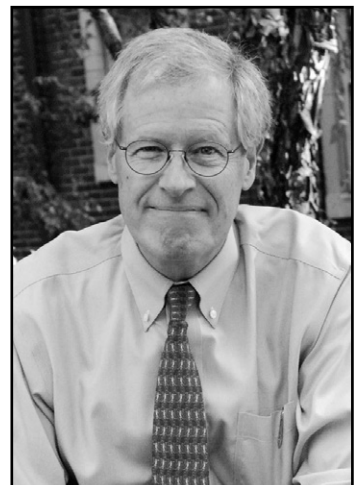


**Hamilton County Mayor  
Jim Coppinger**

**Jim Kennedy** is the Director of Admission and Enrollment at Baylor School where he began his professional career as a teacher in 1974. In 1977, he moved to Houston, Texas, where he served as Training Director for the Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Company. He returned to Chattanooga and spent a decade in the advertising business before taking a position with the RiverCity Company in the early days of the downtown renaissance. While at RiverCity, Jim helped establish the Chattanooga Downtown Partnership and served as its first executive director. From there, he moved on to become president of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce before establishing the consulting firm of Kennedy, Coulter, Rushing & Watson. He returned to Baylor in 2011.

Jim currently serves on the boards of the Lyndhurst Foundation and the Chattanooga Theatre Centre, and he is a member of the Chattanooga Rotary Club.

Jim and his wife, Barbara, have three sons: Dan, Jake and Kristopher.



**James O. Kennedy**

**Ben Hazlewood** is a native of Chattanooga. He and his wife Jenny share their home with their two sons, Hudson and Sawyer, two dogs, a rabbit, and a cat that comes and goes as she sees fit. Ben is a McCallie graduate and alumnus of Furman University. He also completed his M.B.A. at UTC. Currently, he serves as the Business Development Manager at Tennessee Interventional and Imaging Associates, the radiology provider for Erlanger Health System.

Ben and his family are members at Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church where he serves as a deacon and a Discipleship Group leader for the 8th grade boys. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, rooting for all things Tennessee Vols related, and likes to cycle, run, and swim to stay active. *And yes, he is Patsy's son.*



**Ben Hazlewood**

## ROASTERS

**Dr. Phyllis Miller** is an Obstetrician-gynecologist who has been in practice for the past 41 years. She is from Polk County, Tennessee. She attended undergraduate at Tennessee Tech University and medical school at the University of Tennessee Medical Units. In addition to a busy practice, she has served in many roles in organized medicine including Chief of Staff at Erlanger Hospital, President of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society and President of the Medical Foundation of Chattanooga. She served as president of the Tennessee Medical Association. She has also served on the board of Baroness Erlanger Hospital. She served as Board Chairman of Hospice of Chattanooga, and was appointed to and currently serves on the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.

In addition to involvement in the medical community, she was a founding member and serves as President of the Polk County Education Foundation. She has been active in the March of Dimes, serving as past chairman of the Professional Services Committee and past member of the Division Board. She served on the advisory board subcommittee for the Rape Crisis Center. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga. She is a member of First Baptist Church and active in the Waters Class.

Honors include American Lung Association Tennessee Woman of Distinction, Tennessee Medical Association Outstanding Physician Award, University of Tennessee Medical Units Distinguished Alumnus, Baroness Foundation Distinguished Physician Award, and Polk County Alumni Hall of Fame.

She has one daughter, Rachel, son-in-law, Robbie Tester, and two adorable grandsons, Jaxson and Mac. She loves spending time with family and friends.



**Dr. Phyllis Miller**





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The Chattanooga State Foundation was chartered in 1977 by citizens interested in the educational well-being of Chattanooga State's students, faculty and staff. In addition to providing 423 deserving students \$736,168 in scholarships the past two years, the Foundation supports professional development, excellence in teaching and special capital projects to help the college fulfill its mission.

The Chattanooga State Foundation is a nonprofit organization and maintains a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The Foundation is supported by private donations and contributions, tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For information about the Chattanooga State Foundation, please contact the Advancement Office at (423) 697-2630 or visit [chattanoogaestate.edu/give](http://chattanoogaestate.edu/give).



Maricela Rodriguez,  
D.D.S., Chair



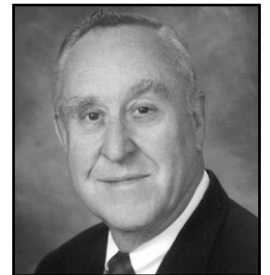
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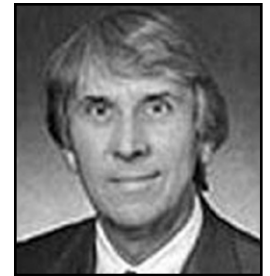
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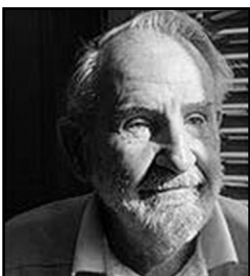
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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a student at a community college in Florida many years ago, I never imagined that I would one day receive the honor of serving as your President here at Chattanooga State. At the time, I just knew I was laying an important foundation for life. As the first person in my immediate family to graduate college, I understand the transformative power of a high quality, post-secondary education.

Our honored guest also understands the transformative power of higher education. Raised on a family farm in Alabama, Patsy Hazlewood was the first person in her family to graduate college. Tonight, we are all here to recognize Patsy's leadership and service to our community while also having a fun time supporting other first generation college students.



Led by event chair Reggie Piercy, Senior Vice President of Vision Hospitality, and his dedicated team of volunteers, the Dinner of Firsts Committee has worked hard to organize this evening's celebration that will end with all the proceeds funding much needed scholarships for deserving students.

For fifty-two years, Chattanooga State has provided high-quality education and workforce training that drives progress and innovation in our service area. The Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect open the path to a college degree for many Tennesseans by removing some of the financial barriers through last dollar funds for tuition. Yet the need for additional scholarship support has never been greater, because the cost of attending college goes beyond tuition. Too often, the difference between a student starting college and finishing college is economic based, not academic. With a 96 percent job placement rate for Chattanooga State graduates, you can be assured of a wise investment in your scholarship support.



Thank you for helping us honor Patsy tonight, and thank you for helping us continue to serve first-generation college students.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Ashford, Ed. D.  
President



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