

Fauquier Times

Thursday, May 12, 2016

By James Ivancic

Bob Sowder pulled out his checkbook Tuesday morning and wrote a check in the amount of \$10,000 to help Lord Fairfax Community College build a new academic building at its Warrenton campus.

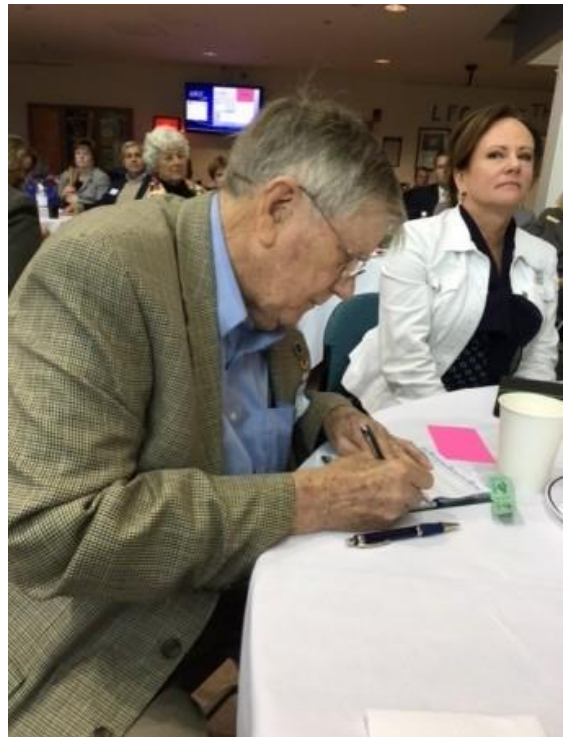
Sowder, now 78, is a longtime benefactor of the college. He donated the barn that was renovated with \$90,000 he provided. The barn is still a prominent fixture on the campus and has remained in use since the college's founding 25 years ago.

Sowder, who was a farmer and real estate agent, has also contributed money to student scholarships over the years. He said that he “proud of the fact I was able to pay back” the community that has been good to him.

He attended a Fauquier Chamber of Commerce legislative update forum Tuesday morning in the Rose Loeb Student Center on the campus. He used the occasion to make the \$10,000 donation and challenged others to do the same.

“We need 49 more people to put up \$10,000,” he said.

The LFCC Foundation needs to raise \$500,000 beyond the \$17 million the state is providing in bond financing to cover utility work and excavation costs. The new 40,000 square ft. building will focus on STEM-H disciplines – science, technology, engineering, math and health.



Bob Sowder writes a check for \$10,000 to help Lord Fairfax Community College construct a new academic building at the Warrenton campus. Courtesy photo