

FNB's \$15G gift to fund BC3 courses for 20 young entrepreneurs

January 23, 2017



(Butler, PA) First National Bank of Pennsylvania's \$15,000 donation to the BC3 Education Foundation, Inc. will create scholarships for high school students enrolled in Butler County Community College courses taught as part of the LindenPointe Entrepreneurship Academy Program.

Twenty students from nine high schools in Mercer County and one in Lawrence County participate in the Entrepreneurship Academy, according to Lisa Evans, program manager, and can take BC3 courses in speech, marketing and psychology.

The academy was founded 30 months ago as a two-year pilot program funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development. Its students represent Sharon, Farrell, Commodore Perry, Sharpsville, Mercer, West Middlesex, Grove City, Hermitage and Greenville high schools in Mercer County, and Union Area High in Lawrence County, Evans says.

“The generous contribution from FNB to fund college credits in the high school at the LindenPointe Entrepreneurship Academy will impact the students for years to come,” Evans says. “Students will be able to graduate high school already ahead of their peers in experience, college credits and independence. We are reinventing the senior year for students in Mercer and Lawrence counties.”

Participants create business prototypes, write startup plans, join pitch events and present ideas to investors and incubators.

“This gift,” says BC3 President Dr. Nick Neupauer, “is another example of the robust partnership between the college and FNB. The college worked closely with FNB and City of Hermitage officials to develop our building on the LindenPointe campus, which has been such a positive collaboration for both BC3 and the community.”

Rex Knisley, FNB senior vice president and regional sales manager, presented the \$15,000 check to the BC3 Education Foundation, Inc.

“It will pay for the tuition of the students,” says Ruth Purcell, executive director of the Education Foundation, Inc. “In essence, there will be no cost to the student for these courses. The foundation is always grateful to FNB and to Rex.”

Knisley is a member of the BC3 Education Foundation, Inc. board.

FNB has supported BC3 the past four years through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, which provides tax credits to eligible businesses that contribute financially to a scholarship, to educational improvement or to a pre-kindergarten scholarship organization.

The bank also sponsors the annual BC3 Education Foundation, Inc. Golf Outing.

“We got to know FNB when BC3 created a location in LindenPointe,” Purcell says. “FNB was instrumental in helping us locate there.”

BC3 opened its LindenPointe location in Hermitage in 2010. About 250 students were enrolled as of the fall semester at BC3 @ LindenPointe, one of the college’s six locations.

Photo Caption:

Ruth Purcell, Executive Director of the BC3 Education Foundation, Inc. and Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3 President accept donation from Rex Knisley, Senior Vice President and Regional Sales Manager for First National Bank of Pennsylvania.