

BC3 golf outing tops \$1 million with record \$95K raised

Aug. 14, 2019



From left, Kyle Hilfiger, branch manager of the Bon Aire office of Farmers National Bank of Emlenton; Ron Vodenichar, representing the Butler Eagle; Kelly Giles, one of 19 directors on the Butler County Community College Education Foundation board; and Ken Fair, representing the Butler Eagle; are shown Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club. The Butler Eagle team of Vodenichar, Fair, Pat Preston and Rob Voltz won the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing's first Champions Cup, donated in 2019 to the Education Foundation by Kelly and John Giles, owners of Cutting Edge Solutions, Butler. Farmers National Bank of Emlenton served as the title sponsor of the outing for the 10th year in a row and Hilfiger served as a co-chair of the 2019 golf outing committee.

(Butler, PA) The Butler County Community College Education Foundation's 24-year-old golf outing fundraiser that supports scholarships and opportunities at BC3 eclipsed \$1 million raised since 1996 when 113 players and 60 sponsors Aug. 2 generated a single-year record of \$95,000.

Sponsors and golfers recognize the vital role BC3 plays in the community, said Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation, which acquires and manages private funds for the benefit of BC3.

“Many sponsors and golfers are alumni or have taken credit or noncredit courses at BC3,” Purcell said. “Some have participated in BC3’s Workforce Development programs, Kids on Campus or Lifelong Learning programs, or are familiar with folks who have.”

Topping \$1 million “is an incredible accomplishment,” said Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3 president. “This is yet another example of how well our foundation is doing. Frankly, it takes the commitment of a number of people – both internally and externally to the college – to make something like this happen.

“We take pride in being a student-centered institution. All decisions that we make at the college have a dotted line back to our No. 1 asset – our students. This event highlights that philosophy.”

Ron Vodenichar, Ken Fair, Rob Voltz and Pat Preston, representing the Butler Eagle, finished first in the team scramble at Old Stonewall Golf Club with a 16-under on the par-70 course.

They will have their names engraved on the first Champions Cup, a 27-inch-high traveling trophy mirroring the Stanley Cup and donated in 2019 to the BC3 Education Foundation by Kelly and John Giles, owners of Cutting Edge Solutions, Butler.

A “partnership” with BC3

Kelly Giles is one of 19 directors on the BC3 Education Foundation board, composed mostly of volunteer community leaders.

David Dodds, Chris Branvold, Mike Radziukinas and Dave Korb, representing UPMC Work Partners, finished second at 15-under.

Unrestricted funds raised during the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing support the BC3 President’s Scholarship, BC3 student travel for academic or athletic events and other opportunities beyond the classroom.

Farmers National Bank of Emlenton in 2019 served as the title sponsor of the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing for the 10th year in a row.



From left, Pat Preston, Rob Voltz, Ron Vodenichar and Ken Fair, representing the Butler Eagle, finished in first place among 28 teams at the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club.

“We have always looked at our relationship with BC3 as a partnership,” said Kyle Hilfiger, who with Farmers National Bank of Emlenton co-worker Trey Skalos served as co-chairs of the 2019 golf outing committee.

“Sponsoring this event is our opportunity to give back to the college,” Hilfiger said. “It is such a great partnership. We know it helps with unrestricted funds for the college to be able to do things that really need to get done. Major gifts are earmarked and they need to be used for specific purposes.”



From left, Chris Branvold, David Dodds, Dave Korb and Mike Radziukinas, representing UPMC Work Partners, finished in second place among 28 teams at the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club.

75% of BC3 graduates debt-free

Restricted, or endowed, funds enable the BC3 Education Foundation to award nearly \$200,000 annually in scholarships which, with financial aid and BC3’s affordable tuition, enables 75 percent of BC3 graduates to graduate debt-free.

“These students are graduating and getting a fantastic education,” Hilfiger said. “And statistics show they are graduating from BC3 with very little debt, if any debt. Your first job after graduating from college is probably not going to be your best-paying job. But that student debt is going to be the same bill whether it is year one or year 20. It is going to be the same debt, when that money could be used for a house payment or a car payment.

“Graduating debt-free or with low debt is going to help you get one step farther down the road. If you have to wait 10 years to buy your first house because student debt is overwhelming you, you have set your family up for delayed retirement.

“Obviously the students who are attending BC3 are smart enough to take this route and end up debt-free or with low debt. They understand the importance of that.”

6 win golfing skills prizes

Winners of the closest-to-the-pin prizes on par-3s were Jeff Goldinger, Center for Community Resources, on No. 5, at 3 feet, 6 inches; Jimmy Stewart, Fort Pitt Capital, on No. 7, at 7 feet, 11.5 inches; John Kline, First National Bank of Pennsylvania, on No. 14, at 13 feet, 9.5 inches; and Jeff Baker, First National Bank of Pennsylvania, on No. 15, at 14 feet, 6 inches.

Bill Hershman and Tony Shakely, of the Armco Credit Union-C.W. Howard team, won the long drive and long putt prizes, respectively, Hershman on No. 10 and Shakely, chair of the BC3 Education Foundation board, on No. 18.

BC3, ranked the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania three consecutive times by Schools.com, has additional locations in Brockway, Jefferson County; Cranberry Township, Butler County; Ford City, Armstrong County; New Castle, Lawrence County; and Sharon, Mercer County; in addition to its main campus in Butler Township.

BC3 also had the highest salary-to-cost ratio among 43 colleges and universities in western Pennsylvania in 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard.

The 2020 golf outing is scheduled for Aug. 7.