

Dale Pinkerton Leadership Scholarship debuts this fall at BC3

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(Butler, PA) More than three dozen individuals, companies and organizations have gifted nearly \$29,000 to a new Butler County Community College scholarship celebrating the life of A. Dale Pinkerton, a Butler County businessman, two-term county commissioner and former BC3 trustee who passed away in January at age 79.

The BC3 Education Foundation this fall will award for the first time the \$1,000 Dale Pinkerton Leadership Scholarship, created by Pinkerton's wife, Millie, and available to a first-year, full-time BC3 student who has successfully completed the Butler County Youth Leadership program.

"I've known Dale since I was 16," Millie Pinkerton said. "He was always leader. Even in high school (at Carrick), he always sold the most candy bars. He always sold the most magazines.

"He was so proud of BC3. He loved kids. This scholarship puts the two together."

Pinkerton "was a huge supporter of the nonprofits in the community," said Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation. "He was one of those guys who always had a good word for you, and was always promoting the college."

"Everything he did, he did for other people," Millie Pinkerton said. "That's what a leader should do."

As a county commissioner, Pinkerton served as a BC3 ex-officio trustee from January 2007 to December 2011.

"Dale was part of the board that appointed me as president many years ago," said Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3's president since 2007. "He was supportive in so many ways – both personally and professionally. We still have many trustees who were appointed by Dale. And those individuals have much to do with our overall success. It is also fitting that his scholarship will help others achieve success."

Added Jordan Grady, executive director of the Butler County Chamber of Commerce: Pinkerton "was just a tremendous individual who gave his life to community service."

The Leadership Butler County Class of 2017 established as its project the free Butler County Youth Leadership program, according to Amanda Fleming, among 25 graduates of Leadership Butler County in 2017 and who serves as a youth leadership program board member and as BC3's college business services specialist.

“We thought, ‘What a great opportunity to involve the youth, and show them what Butler County has to offer,’” Fleming said.

The Butler County Youth Leadership program, according to its application, “focuses on providing students exposure to issues, resources and opportunities for service in the Butler County area, as well as educating students on the concept of community leadership.”

The youth leadership program is available to juniors in Butler County high schools and in charter schools. Those who complete the program and enroll at BC3 are also eligible for a \$500 scholarship from the BC3 Education Foundation’s unrestricted funds.

Nearly 75 students have graduated from the program, whose workshops include leadership and personal development skills, developing personal branding and networking, government and successful entrepreneurs and businesses in Butler County.

“It’s eye-opening for them,” Fleming said. “The students really enjoy it and engage in it, and it builds their character.”

“The youth leadership program is already very strong and well-known within the community,” Grady said. The Dale Pinkerton Leadership Scholarship “just strengthens the program even more. For Millie to decide that one of the criteria to receive this scholarship was to have them complete this program, that just means the world to this program and to the chamber.”

The Dale Pinkerton Leadership Scholarship is one of more than 120 named awards available to BC3 students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Pinkerton was founder and president of Pinkerton Goodyear, regional manager of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and a licensed funeral director. Among organizations benefiting from Pinkerton’s volunteer and community service were the Rotary Club of Butler, the United Way of Butler County, the Butler YMCA, Butler Area Public Library, Butler Memorial Hospital, the Boy Scouts of America, the Salvation Army and Lifestep’s Election Day pancake festival.

Pinkerton was an active member of the Rotary Club of Butler since 1981 and, according to Millie, lived the Rotarian motto of “Service Above Self.” He served as Butler club president for three terms and as Rotary district governor. He founded the Rotary Turkey Round Up to help Butler County food banks supply food for the needy at Christmas and was the major fundraiser for the club’s annual golf outing.

The Butler County Youth Leadership program is an affiliate of the Butler County Chamber of Commerce and its foundation, New Visions for Butler; and of Leadership Butler County. The program is sponsored by NextTier Bank, BC3, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Armstrong, Stantec, Butler Business Systems and Butler Health System.