

DC3 Distinguished Alumnus Holds Presentation, Establishes Scholarship

On Thursday, April 27th, W.R. “Bill” Robbins, a distinguished Dodge City Community College alumnus and owner of Farmer’s Bank & Trust, returned to DC3 to speak to current students about his personal path to success as well as the inner workings of the banking industry. During his time as a student at DC3 (then, Dodge City Junior College), Robbins had two jobs and was also a student athlete.

After Robbins left DC3, he enrolled at Fort Hays State University, where he graduated in 1959. His banking career began shortly thereafter. He and a partner purchased Farmer’s Bank & Trust, in Albert, Kansas, and he bought out his partner in 1971, becoming the head of the bank at the age of 34. Farmer’s Bank & Trust is the 15th largest bank in the state, with locations in Bazine, LaCrosse, Albert, Kinsley, Larned, Great Bend, and Overland Park with over \$88 million in capital.

“W.R. Robbins is a perfect example of drive, determination, and dedication to a dream, especially when starting from humble beginnings. He is a firm believer in lasting friendships and sticking to your values. I was excited to hear him share that with our students today,” stated Chris Haselhorst, Dodge City Community College Foundation Director.

Robbins has graciously donated funds to be used by the DC3 Foundation for the new Robbins Business and Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to two students per year, for \$500 each (\$250 per semester; 1 freshman and 1 sophomore). Students will not have to be business majors, but will have to establish an interest in Business, Leadership, or Entrepreneurship. If the students awarded the scholarship go on to further their education at Fort Hays State University and enroll in the business college there, they will receive another \$250 from the DC3 Foundation. The scholarships will be available beginning Fall 2017. Mr. Robbins has additional scholarships in his name at Fort Hays State University. Students interested in those will need to follow application procedures at FHSU and the business college at FHSU. Those scholarships are not affiliated with the DC3 Robbins Business and Leadership Scholarship.

“Mr. Robbins has committed to being a friend of the DC3 Foundation and we look forward to working with him for many, many years to come,” Haselhorst said. “To have our DC3 alums supporting the Foundation, both through scholarships as Mr. Robbins is doing and through other donations, can be transformational. It gives the Foundation the strength to be able to provide assistance to Dodge City Community College and its students from around Kansas and around the world.”

If you would like more information on the Robbins Business and Leadership Scholarship, please contact DC3 Foundation Director Chris Haselhorst at 620-225-9541 or chaselhorst@dc3.edu.