South Plains College

A Crucial Piece of the Levelland Mosaic

by Adán Rubio, *Public Relations Specialist at South Plains College*



Ann Capps

At the heart of Levelland sits an institution that has shaped the local community for several decades and continues to turn students' dreams into realities. Since 1957, South Plains College has executed its mission to improve every student's life. With its wide range of academic programs complemented by dual credit and academic transfer opportunities, SPC attracts students from around the world and propels them in their careers in Levelland and beyond.

Attending SPC is a must for many people who grew up in Levelland. The smaller class sizes, the affordable programs, and the convenient campus location are all reasons the College stands out among other learning opportunities in West Texas.

The family of long-time Levelland resident Ann Capps set its roots in the area in 1924 and was instrumental in the city's establishment a few years later. For as long as she could remember, SPC was the place to be.

"It's where the seniors in Levelland High School went," she said. "I knew it would prepare me for pharmacy school, and it was a very convenient, affordable place to attend."

Ann enrolled at SPC in 1974 and pursued an Associate of Science degree. Since then, she has seen the College continue to accommodate and empower students. From the Science Center and Google Garage makerspace(3D Printing) to the upcoming Aquatic Center and dental hygiene facility, SPC not only has the resources to prepare students for their careers but also improves the quality of life for Levelland residents.

According to Ann, SPC is a "blessing" for the Levelland community that has also provided a strong foundation


Carylon Veretto

for her education at the University of Texas and her career as a local pharmacist. Unbeknownst to her at the time, completing the science program did not mark the end of her SPC journey.

In 2008, the late Sycily Lattimore, a former SPC marketing and management instructor, asked Ann to serve on the SPC Foundation Board of Directors. Ann was elected secretary of the board three years later and became board president in 2017. Even after retiring from her pharmacy career, Ann continues to serve the SPC Foundation and garner support for students.

"This year, we budgeted $1.4 million in scholarships," Ann said regarding the hard work the Foundation does to ensure students fulfill their financial needs. "That support has really, really grown over the years."

To further help SPC students achieve their goals, Ann and her family endowed scholarships. Among these donations is the Ray and Georgia Watson Memorial Scholarship, a tribute to her grandparents who made Levelland their home.

"I keep supporting SPC because we need to have educated young people in the world and in Levelland," she said. "The future is our young people."

For long-time Levelland residents, like Carylon Veretto, support for students can take many forms, and any contribution helps. In addition to endowing the Bob Veretto Memorial Scholarship in honor of her late husband, who served as an executive vice president of First National Bank, Carylon strives to give back during SPC's annual fundraising events. The value of education drives her to support students, whom she loves to see excel in the classroom and in their careers.

"SPC was a blessing for my four kids," she said. "They were able to interact with other cultures because not all SPC students are from West Texas."

When SPC was first established, Carylon said it was the best option for Levelland students who wanted to stay close to home for work and their families. Decades later, SPC is an option for those seeking smaller class sizes and a steppingstone to a university, and Levelland continues to be a hospitable place where visitors can develop meaningful connections.

Carylon praises the city and the College for making students feel like individuals, not an enrollment number. When someone starts their journey in the SPC community, "you're going to feel like family."

"SPC is the place to go," Carylon said, recounting the supportive people who have worked there. "You will be helped in any field that you go into."

For Carylon, contributing to SPC is vital. Education will always be important to society, so she encourages the people of West Texas to give to the College in any way they can to foster future professionals in Levelland and around the world.

Contributing to the next generation of SPC graduates has been an honor for Ann, Carylon, and others who want to see Levelland prosper. SPC's Development Office is a great resource for initiating support efforts, such as scholarship endowments.

"This college means a lot to this town," Carylon said. "SPC defines this town."