

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Note attached photos, cutlines at bottom of story):

NCTC FOUNDATION GALA HONORS DONORS

GAINESVILLE – The North Central Texas College Foundation held its annual Starlite Gala Friday, honoring individuals and organizations that have given of their time and resources to further NCTC and their local communities.

The Starlite Gala was held at the WinStar Convention Center with attendance over 500 guests.

The F.M. Hemphill Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor that can be granted to graduates and former students of NCTC. The NCTC Foundation established this award thirty years ago, fittingly named in honor of the college's distinguished president of the Class of 1926. This year's F.M. Hemphill Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to George Burrow.

Burrow is a true educator, with over 34 years in education teaching in Celina, Whitesboro and Gainesville ISDs. He attended Dexter schools through the 7th grade and then graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1951 where he played football. The summer after high school he decided to go to college. In 1953, he graduated from Gainesville Junior College (now North Central Texas College) with an Associate of Arts Degree and then in 1955 he graduated from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in Social Studies and PE. The day after graduating from college, he was drafted into the army for two years.

He was processed in at Fort Ord in California and then went to Fort Knox to wait until he was shipped out to Germany during the Cold War. He was in the 29th Armored Infantry Medical Battalion of the 3rd Army.

In 1957, he returned home and started looking for jobs. He interviewed for a teaching job in Celina at the end of August and after a teacher resigned at the last minute, he was hired to teach 7th and 8th grade Social Studies. His salary was \$204 a month and the rest is education history.

He was hired on Saturday and started teaching on Monday. He was the only Social Studies teacher so he had no support or lesson plans. Just some books and a room full of students.

Several weeks after school started the Superintendent told him that for the next school year, Celina High School football was moving from 6-man to 11-man football. He asked him to organize a Junior High Team to get the boys ready for high school. He had 25 boys participating with no uniforms, no equipment except for a football, no program and they never played an official game, but they had a lot of fun.

A year later, he took a teaching and coaching position at Whitesboro Middle School with a \$500 a year raise. In 1959, he started his Master's degree in Education with emphasis in Science at East Texas State in Commerce. He drove there on weekends for his classes. He finished his degree in 1961. In 1963, he proposed to his wife on Valentine's Day and they were married in June.

In 1964, he took a coaching job at Gainesville ISD and was assigned the JV Football team. Ironically, the other coach for the team was Bo Reid who had been his high school football coach. At Gainesville, he taught Physical Science classes. In 1965, he moved to coach the freshman football team.

In 1973, at in-service right before the classes started, the principal asked him to teach chemistry. Fortunately, there was another chemistry teacher that helped him with lesson plans this time.

In 1975, the Gainesville School Board decided to develop a PE Program for elementary schools, and again they offered him this job – the catch was that he had to decide right then – so he took the job. He thought his coaching career was over but, in the fall of 1975, as he was getting the PE program organized, the GISD board needed to comply with a new federal law called Title IX – they wanted to develop a girl’s athletic program because none existed. So, he established a girl’s track team, 3 on 3 basketball team and a golf team and coached them for 4 years.

In 1979, he was promoted to the Director of Operations – he was responsible for transportation for the district’s buses, food service, food purchase and menu planning for all campuses and maintenance of all campuses.

In 1991, he retired from GISD after 34 years in education. He continued working with Adult Education/GED for another 10 years.

In September, 2022, the Gainesville High School Alumni Association inducted George and Sandra Burrow into the GISD Alumni and Teacher Hall of Fame.

He and his wife have two daughters. In 2013, they moved to Hudson Oaks, Texas to be close to one of their daughters.

“Seems like everything about his career was done on a spur-of-the-moment, make-a-decision-now basis,” said former NCTC President Dr. Eddie Hadlock. “And most of it required that he develop some type of program from scratch on a very short deadline. And he did it. Quite remarkable.”

The NCTC Foundation established the Ed Wright Community Service Award to recognize individuals, organizations, and/or businesses for meritorious service to the college and/or the community.

The Ed Wright Community Service award for Denton County was presented to The Summit Club of Flower Mound.

“The club is dedicated to fostering community leadership through community service,” said NCTC Foundation Board Member Pat Lawson. “They support local organizations and activities that promote and demonstrate to our youth the importance of giving back to the community and how that enhances the quality of life for all – both today and tomorrow.”

The club is the oldest civic club organization in Flower Mound, and was established in 1974 with the motto of Community Leadership and Community Service. Forty-nine years later, members live this motto by serving the town at events such as the Children’s Independence Day Parade, Sunrise Service on the Mound, Flower Mound Smoke Fest, Back to School Fairs, All in for Kids, collecting can goods, delivering turkeys to Flower Mound police and fire departments, cooking hot dogs, and Breakfast with Santa. The club is always willing to show up and help others.

“This organization is a strong supporter of NCTC by not only endowing two scholarships to support students attending the college, but by helping cook pancakes for a NCTC Foundation fundraising event and several members serving on the NCTC Foundation Board,” said Lawson.

The award for Cooke County was presented to Sandy Schmitz and the Cooke County Boys and Girls Club. The award for Montague County was presented to Carla Swofford, and the service award for the Graham campus went to Ellen Morris.

NCTC Foundation Board President Phil Neelley, along with NCTC Chancellor Dr. Brent Wallace and NCTC Board of Regents Chair Karla Metzler recognized inductees into the NCTC Foundation Honor Circle.

Members of the Patrons Honors Circle who have given between \$1,000 and \$4,999 included: Abby Dieter, Tactical Computing Labs, Lauren Eggert, Jessica DeRoche, Jan & the Late Earl Russell, Donna & Charles Culpepper, Kara Mason, Jeremy & Melinda Carroll, Era Education Foundation, Amy Hoffman, Danelle Wolf, Maggie M. Row, Brenda Anderle, Amy Klohn, Embassy Suites Denton Convention Center, Dr. Ann S. Jagoe Memorial Scholarship, Joe Lucido & Associates, LLC, Jim & Roxanne Haayen, Krum ISD Education Foundation, Bell Supply Company, Endurance Lift Solutions, LLC, Thomas Pitcock, West Texas A&M University, Collinsville United Methodist Church, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Inductees into the Benefactors Honor Circle, who have given between \$5,000 and \$9,999, included: The Zimmerer Family Scholarship, Big Hat Limousine and Transportation, Sara Flusche, Shane & Robin Studdard, First Christian Church – Gainesville, Emily Lewis, Jessica Carlile, Roy Culberson, To the Moon Cindy Berend Scholarship, and Midwestern State University.

The Founders Honors Circle, including inductees who have given between \$10,000 and \$19,999, included: Robbie & Diane Baugh, Claud & Carol Fry, Denise & Ricky Cason, Sanger Lions Club, Wise Electric Coop, Lee Russell – Edward Jones, and Jim & Jennifer Goldsworthy.

Bronze Honors Circle inductees, who provided gifts between \$20,000 and \$29,999, included: First United Methodist Church – Graham, Tim & Mary Turbeville, Ryan & Christy Morris, Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd, Hullett, P.C., Trident Process Systems, and Select Energy Services.

Inducted into the White Diamond Honors Circle for gifts between \$50,000 and \$99,000 were The Saint Jo ISD Education Foundation, NCTC Chancellor Dr. Brent Wallace, The Phil and Lisa Bellows Family, Lake Cities Education Foundation, Ponder Education Foundation, Casting for a Cause, and Lewisville ISD Education Foundation.

Inducted into the Blue Chip Honors Circle for gifts over \$100,000 were Frank and Dorothy Knapp, who have provided scholarship funds for NCTC students. “They both have a true servant heart and want to help students reach their educational and career goals,” said Neeley. “Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Knapp, for your commitment to helping others.”

The NCTC College Ensemble entertained guests during dinner and throughout the night and NCTC scholarship recipients shared their stories about the impact that scholarships have made on their lives.

Wallace thanked those in attendance for their support of the college, the NCTC Foundation, and especially for the students. “The student stories you have heard this evening are the full reason that NCTC exists. We have always had a heart for our students.”

For more information about helping provide scholarships through donations to the NCTC Foundation or about membership in the NCTC Alumni Association, contact Debbie Sharp by email at dsharp@nctc.edu.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD— The F.M. Hemphill Distinguished Alumni award was presented to George Burrow. L to R: NCTC Board of Regents Chair Karla Metzler, Former NCTC President Dr. Eddie Hadlock, George Burrow, NCTC Chancellor Dr. Brent Wallace.

PHOTO CUTLINE #2:

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD— Summit Club of Flower Mound – The Summit Club of Flower Mound was presented the Ed Wright Community Service award for Denton County at the NCTC Starlite Gala Friday.

PHOTO CULINE #3:

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – Summit Club of Flower Mound – L to R: NCTC Foundation President Phil Neelley, NCTC Vice Chancellor Debbie Sharp, NCTC Board of Regents Chair Karla Metzler, Claudio Forrest, Bryan Webb, NCTC Chancellor Dr. Brent Wallace.

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