
Donor Spotlight

First National Bank and Trust Company of Newtown

The First National Bank and Trust Company of Newtown (FNBN) has operated in Bucks County since 1864, and remains an independent bank that continues to invest back into the Bucks County community. FNBN began to support Bucks County Community College (BCCC) in the 1980s and since that time has become an important sponsor of school events and programs. For instance, FNBN has been a major contributor to the Foundation's capital campaigns of both its Upper and Lower Bucks campuses.



John Parry, FNBN's Chairman of the Board, President & CEO since 1996 recognizes the importance of the school: "The college is a great asset to the Bucks County area and the [BCCC] Foundation is a good fund raising arm of the College." Parry also sees the relationship between FNBN and Bucks as a mutually beneficial one: "As FNBN partners with the College, it gives the bank good exposure in the community, showing support to the community, plus we assist the College in doing all the good projects that it does."

In 2001, FNBN became the presenting sponsor of the Tyler Tasting Party, an annual event that as Parry explains, "raises money to help restore Tyler Hall. Not only does Tyler Hall provide offices and classroom space for the college, but it shows students the history and architecture of the building and the life of the Tyler family."

The event raises funds for the restoration of Tyler Hall, the 78-year-old French-Norman style mansion which served as the home of banker George F. Tyler and his wife, sculptress and patron of the arts Stella Elkins Tyler. The building became the cornerstone of BCCC when the two-year public school opened its doors in 1965. This year will mark the Tyler Tasting Party's 22nd anniversary.

FNBN also participates in campus job fairs, and the bank employs many Bucks alumni at all levels, including two of the bank's vice presidents. One of bank's former vice presidents, Mary Lou Schaffer, serves on the BCCC Foundation Board of Directors as well as the FNBN board. "I have personally known Mrs. Schaffer my whole life... she brings her banking and business knowledge and general common sense to both boards," remarked Parry.

Parry encourages others to support the BCCC Foundation. "I would advise [potential donors] that the Foundation is a good organization to partner with, to assist them to achieve their mission, and to help them provide needed educational programs to the residents of Bucks County."

Written by Adam Stapenell, Class of 2010. Adam is a Communications major at BCCC, and writes for the College's student newspaper, The Centurion.