

Arne and Kristi Berg Family Scholarship Endowment

Lake Region State College played an important role in Arne and Kristi's families' lives. Their confidence that education is the foundation for a life of productivity and earning power led them to establish the Arne and Kristi Berg Family Scholarship Endowment.

LRSC has taught so many people skills that have helped them to go out in life and be productive citizens. Many have gone on to other universities to finish their studies, built upon the foundation gained at LRSC. Many have come back to finish their degrees after years of employment, sometimes to follow other opportunities.

Arne and Kristi's families experienced firsthand all of these different combinations. Their brothers and sisters, daughter, and granddaughters, along with nieces and nephews, have attended LRSC. Arne attended Lake Region Junior College in 1966 studying automotive mechanics in Cliff Olson's second year of the program. In 1945, Arne's mother, Beth, attended the Sisters of Mercy Hospital Nursing Program and attended classes at the "junior college" as part of the nursing program. All told, four generations of the Berg family have attended LRSC.

Growing up in rural Webster, farming

became a large part of Arne's life as he helped his father, Gordon, on the family farm. Norris Fagerlund, his agricultural instructor in high school and FFA advisor,

became a strong influence in Arne's life. He graduated from Devils Lake High School in 1966, and after one year at LRJC, he attended NDSU and graduated in the spring of 1971 with a BS in Agricultural Economics. Arne achieved the



State Farmer degree and represented North Dakota at the National Dairy Show as one of the three dairy judges, earning a silver medal. Arne moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1972 and became an assistant manager with House-hold Finance, but farming was his real ambition. He moved back to North Dakota and began farming with his father in 1974. Summers were spent on the harvest run in southern states for the first fifteen years of farming. He retired from farming after forty crops in October of 2013.

In 1963, as a young girl, Kris moved from a farm near Rock Lake, North Dakota, to Devils Lake. She graduated from Devils Lake Central High School in 1973 and began a career with Leever's Super Valu, working her way up to produce manager. She married Arne in 1984 and

began a farming career, meanwhile taking some classes at LRSC. She became a certified pharmacy technician through a North Dakota State College of Science program in 1995, after which she worked with Ramsey Drug. Kris has been a volunteer for the Community College Foundation, and has served on the Human Service board and her church board of trustees. Active in the farming operation until their retirement, Kris also enjoys golfing, yardwork, and sewing.

Believing that one should give back to a community that has played such an important part of his life, Arne has served on many boards since he discontinued his custom combining career. He was elected to the Ramsey County Commission in 1996 and served three terms, working to improve conditions in Ramsey County. Governor John Hoeven appointed Arne to the State Water Commission in 2006 in response to the continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin. Arne was re-appointed by Governor Jack Dalrymple in 2011 and continued to

work towards removing flood waters from farmland. Arne is a life member of the Elks, is a Mason, and a member of the Lake Region Flag Corps of KEM Shrine. Arne also served two terms on the Community College Foundation board of directors.

Life can be looked at in three stages—learning, earning, and returning, a quote Arne heard from Les Ferry, an LRSC welding instructor, many years ago. This endowment will help a student *learn* at LRSC and help that student *earn* in the future. Hopefully, that student will *return* to help build up the community by serving in the community and giving back to future generations. In this way, this endowment will keep on giving back as long as there is LRSC and as long as there is a Lake Region community. Because farming has been such a large part of their lives, earnings from this endowment will provide scholarships for Dakota Precision Ag program students and mechanical program students. ■

