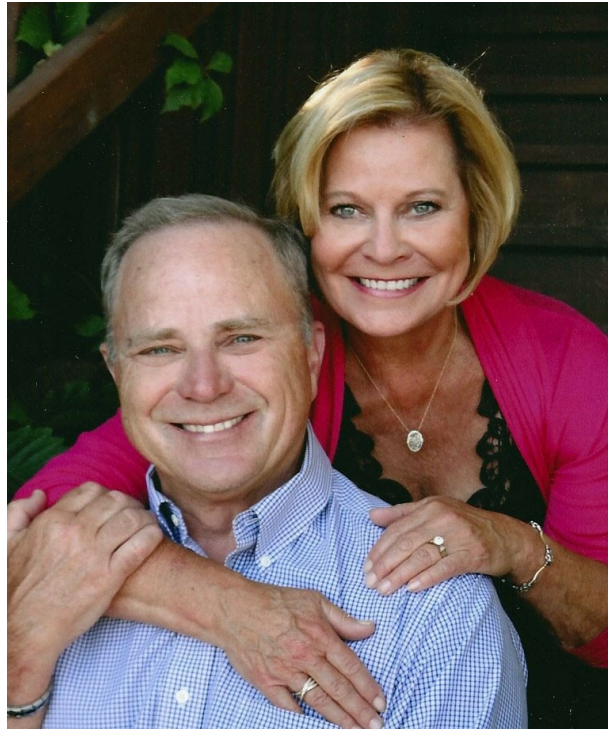


Pete and Pam Jerome Helping Hands Endowment



Pete and Pam (Olson) Jerome are lifelong members of the Lake Region who have always “walked the talk” with regard to strengthening the community. They grew up in Devils Lake watching their parents and grandparents find ways to give back the community. Pete and Pam have modeled this same service-oriented approach to community-building for their children, Amber, Ashley, and Peter. They support their children’s activities and their church and invest in resources, such as the college, that make the community a better place for all.

Lake Region State College is proud that Pete and Pam have chosen to share their time and talents with the college in many special ways. Pete served four terms (12 years) on the Community College Foundation board of directors, including two years as its president. Many exciting initiatives were completed during his tenure with the foundation—including the auditorium renovation, the welcome center addition, and the gym floor upgrade—and Peter helped to spark remarkable growth in the endowed scholarship program. Together, Pete and Pam have been energetic supporters of the annual Key Event fund-raising effort, dreaming up unique auction items such as the popular Shesenne River canoe outing.

When asked about his commitment to the college through its foundation, Peter explained,

“Although everyone in my family had taken classes at the college, I really didn’t understand its full impact on the community until I began serving on the foundation’s board of directors.”

He described the college as a key education and cultural resource for their family and for others throughout the region. As the end of his second set of terms on the board approached, Pete and Pam made the decision to establish an endowment. Pam explained, *“We want these dollars to really make a difference, to remove barriers for students who are at risk of giving up on their plans to get an education.”*

They visited with the director of the college’s TRiO Program who shared concerns about students who fail to persist because of a variety of insurmountable financial barriers. A student may be forced to drop out for lack of a small sum to buy a book, pay a car repair bill, or afford temporary child care. Regular financial aid programs typically fail to meet needs which crop up after financial plans have been finalized.

The Jerome family is pleased that this new endowed fund will be a central part of LRSC’s “Helping Hands” initiative designed to help students persist even when challenged by emergency needs. The college and foundation are excited to accept this unique gift and look forward to using it as the cornerstone for an initiative that helps at-risk students succeed, despite challenges. •