

James and Virginia LaBarre Scholarship Endowment

Coming from humble backgrounds, James (Jim) and Virginia (Ginny) wanted to help students at Lake Region State College receive a quality education. Both alumni of Lake Region State College, Jim and Ginny are locals. With their roots in the Lake Region, they continue to spend time here with family and friends.



Jim grew up on the family farm east of Webster. Born to Lorian (Swede) and Eileen LaBarre, he was the sixth of twelve children. He attended Cato Township Country School during his elementary grades and then Webster High School until it closed after his sophomore year. His junior year was spent at Devils Lake Central. As a senior, he transferred to Starkweather Public School District and graduated

from there in 1960. Jim drove school bus for Devils Lake Public Schools and was able to attend Lake Region Junior College, graduating in May 1962. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Mayville State University and a Masters of Science and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of North Dakota. He completed post-doctoral study in management information systems at Indiana University.

Virginia (Ginny) grew up on a farm in the Brocket, North Dakota, area. She attended Lawton and Brocket Elementary Schools. The family moved to Lakota, North Dakota, and opened Powers Excavating Business, and Ginny graduated from Lakota High School in May 1963. She attended Lake Region Junior College and graduated from UND in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Jim and Ginny were married in July 1968. They have one daughter, Patti.

Dr. LaBarre began his teaching career at Osnabrock High School. After a tour of duty in the United States Army, he returned to teach at Medina High School. Jim taught for thirty-three years at the University of Wisconsin. He also was a visiting professor at the University of North Dakota, Wayne State University, University of Montana, Catholic University of America, University of Minnesota, and Brigham Young University-Hawaii. He is now Professor Emeritus and retired chair of the Department of Management Information Systems (MIS) and Coordinator of Instructional Technology for the College of Business, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Actively involved in research, writing, and publishing in business education and information systems, Dr. LaBarre authored and co-authored forty-three high school and college

textbooks, business simulations, and ancillary publications. He also authored numerous articles, reviews, and scholarly papers. As director of several curriculum development projects, he influenced the direction and development of secondary and post-secondary competency-based curriculums in computer information systems.

Dr. LaBarre served as president, vice president, and secretary of the International Association for Computer Information Systems, president of the National Association for Business and Office Educators, and served on Microsoft's Higher Education Advisory Committee. He was awarded the *Distinguished Lecturer in Business Education* in 1982 and was selected as the *Outstanding Wisconsin Post-Secondary Business Teacher* in 1995. He was awarded the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire *Medallion of Excellence* in 2003.

Ginny's love for young children kept her busy during her personal and professional life.

After their daughter reached school age, Ginny established a daycare business which she operated before becoming a teacher-assistant for Eau Claire Public Schools. Ginny continued to work with kindergarten students throughout the district for 21 years. She retired in 2007. Ginny enjoys family and genealogy. She is the "family photographer" at all gatherings and has suffered the normal ribbing when trying to get a group to pose. She enjoys bowling and downhill skiing. She volunteers at the school library during her free time when not traveling throughout the US and the world.

Jim and Ginny retired to Eau Claire, WI. They have travelled extensively and enjoy fishing, camping, hiking, and backpacking.

They established this scholarship endowment to provide scholarship support to exemplary students majoring in business, agribusiness, and/or technology related to such fields. The first award was made in 2017. ●

“Given in honor of our moms and dads and the educators who helped us achieve our dreams. We hope the recipients may enjoy the educational opportunities of LRSC and reach their respective goals. “

—James and Virginia LaBarre—