

# COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR  
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

## President Addresses EDC Board

Lindenwood University President James D. Evans, PhD, was the featured speaker at the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Council of St. Charles County meeting on Friday, Sept. 21. As a current member of the Board, he presented an overview of the history of Lindenwood, a summary of the major developments that have taken place at the University over the past 12 years, and an update on the initiatives that are currently underway.



Evans also discussed examples of the areas of service through which Lindenwood brings great value to St. Charles County, including the following: creation and support of stable jobs, provision of higher education services, preparation of professionals for the regional workforce, provision of volunteers for various civic causes, strengthening of the regional economy, and enhancement of community education and local culture. Among other announcements, he was also pleased to inform the group of Lindenwood's plan to offer degrees in nursing and other fields of the health sciences at the beginning of the 2013 fall semester.

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## Did You Know?

**Did you know that long after George Sibley died, someone proposed marriage to Mary? Seventy years old at the time, Mary asked her grand-niece what she thought of the idea. Mary's niece advised her to put the gentleman "on probation" before committing, to which she agreed. The gentleman died of old age before the six months had elapsed.**

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## Baber Hired as Planned Giving Director

Donna Baber, JD, has been hired as the Director of Planned Giving at Lindenwood University. In the newly created position, Baber oversees the planning and execution of the University's planned giving programs through the school's Institutional Advancement Office.



"With a primary focus on building Lindenwood's planned giving program, I'll help steward alumni and friends of the University and begin building a stronger

foundation of support for the school's future," she said.

Prior to coming to Lindenwood, Baber served for 24 years as an estate planning and trust administration attorney in St. Louis, Mo. With two decades of experience in the estate and nonprofit field, she has a wealth of expertise helping donors achieve their estate-planning and legacy-building dreams. She also has five years of experience as a certified public accountant.

Baber holds an undergraduate degree in economics and business administration from Hendrix College and a juris doctorate from Tulane University. She currently resides in St. Louis with her husband, William Baber, MD, and their two children, William, Jr., and Katherine.

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## Beckerle Leads LU Make-A-Wish Team in Donation

Representatives from Lindenwood University recently donated more than \$5,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Missouri to support the wish of a local youth named John Patchett. The funds will be used by the organization to offset the cost of Patchett's granted wish, which was a trip to the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and Home Run Derby in Kansas City, Mo.



The fundraising project was initiated through the NCAA, which requires that member schools annually contribute a minimum donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Lindenwood organizers decided they would work to exceed that goal in support of a local recipient.

Students and staff from the School of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Nonprofit Administration Student Association, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee held various events throughout the year to raise the additional money. Fundraising activities ranged from merchandise sales to a community golf tournament.

"We accomplished what we set out to do, which was to help," said Jack Beckerle, professor in the School of Human Services. "We knew we wanted to sponsor a child from this area, so Make-A-Wish provided us with candidates and we selected John Patchett as our beneficiary."

Patchett, 12, was born with a genetically inherited illness known as Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). The disease only affects males and restricts the body's ability to fight infections.

He underwent a successful bone marrow transplant as an infant, and he continues to manage his disease through weekly transfusions at his home in Des Peres, Mo. His medical equipment is portable, so he was able to continue his treatment during his time in Kansas City.

During his wish trip, Patchett received an All-Star jersey with his name on it, a bat, autographed baseballs, and other mementos to mark the occasion. He met several players and was also interviewed by a Kansas City television reporter.

When asked about his experience, Patchett described it in one word: awesome.

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## Pecoraro Juggles Many LU Responsibilities

Bob Pecoraro has been the special projects manager at Lindenwood University since April of 2012. He is responsible for garnering permit application from area municipalities, obtaining bids for subcontracted services, and assisting Julie Mueller, Vice President for Operations and Finance, with other duties as assigned.



“My job is to represent Julie in the field,” he said. “I observe all the different special projects taking place at all of Lindenwood’s extension centers and deliver daily status reports to her. I keep her informed on everything we’re doing.”

Pecoraro has 24 years of municipal experience, including years of service as a special services coordinator for the City of Jennings and as an inspector. He is highly organized and dedicated to increasing efficiency within the department.

He is currently assembling a proposal to create a comprehensive overlay district for Lindenwood signage, and he has also organized and cataloged all of the University’s building plans. In addition, he volunteers year-round at the Historic Daniel Boone Home and Heritage Center as the character of Daniel Boone’s biographer, John Filson.

As for his current role at Lindenwood, Pecoraro said he is thrilled to be in his position.

“I absolutely love it,” he said. “I’ve always been a part of a team ever since I was a small boy, and this is my favorite team.”

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