Century Club
Annual Recognition Dinner
Tuesday, May 10, 2011 • 6 p.m. • Hilton Garden Inn, Kankakee

Kankakee Community College Foundation
Welcome! I am so glad that you are able to join us this evening. As the new Executive Director of the KCC Foundation, I am honored to serve KCC and will work to ensure the continued growth of the Century Club.

The KCC Century Club was established in 1984 with a few gifts of $100. This endowed fund annually awards two sophomore students scholarships for tuition, fees and books. Century Club Scholars are the outstanding nominees from all divisional scholarship candidates who are recommended by the academic division chairs.

Even though I have served at Kankakee Community College only a short time, I am impressed by the extraordinary spirit that drives the college’s mission - Enhancing quality of life through learning. The faculty and staff do an outstanding job of preparing students for their future careers. Did you know that KCC has more than 12,000 graduates, many who live and work in our community?

KCC’s strategic goals ask for promotion of student success, student services, community outreach efforts, and community partnerships. The KCC Foundation promotes and strengthens these efforts. As we expand opportunities for students today, we ensure the success of our community tomorrow.

Your gift is a powerful means of investing in the future. Thank you on behalf of our students, the KCC Foundation Board of Directors, faculty, staff and administration.

Sincerely,
Kelly Myers
Executive Director
Dr. Juan Jimenez has said his dreams began at a community college. A former community college student, he has been a neurosurgeon at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee since 2006. He is also the Medical Director of Neurosurgery Consultants at Riverside and Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Jimenez earned a Bachelor of Science degree, summa cum laude, from the University of California, Riverside, in 1992. While attending medical school at the University of California Los Angeles, he was the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund award recipient (1994). He graduated from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1996. Jimenez completed an internship in general surgery at the University of Miami, and then was a neurosurgery resident, also at the University of Miami. He completed a second residency in neurosurgery at Rush University Medical Center.

Jimenez has received the Josiah Brown Research Award (1993), the Medical Student Award for Research Excellence (1993), and was named the University of Miami Surgical Intern of the Year (1997). Jimenez resides in the area with his wife and four children.
Joshua Beneze

Joshua Beneze is a KCC sophomore enrolled in the Visual Arts program. He plans to transfer to Governors State University upon graduating from KCC. Joshua has a GPA of 3.5.

He is the incoming co-president of Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for community college students. Additionally, Joshua is training to be a state-certified tutor for the GED and Adult Literacy programs at KCC.

Joshua is the first in his family to attend college.

Nicole Brenneisen

Nicole is a 2009 graduate of Clifton Central High School and she is enrolled in the Radiography Program at KCC. She was an honors student throughout her high school career.

Nicole is on the KCC President’s list, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for community college students. Outside the classroom, she has been actively involved in the community by participating in events including the Memory Walk for Alzheimer’s Disease, the Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis, and the March of Dimes Walk America.

Nicole is the first in her family to attend college.
Dominic Surprenant

After graduating from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School in 1973, 17-year-old Dominic Surprenant wanted to pursue higher education, but his family could not afford to send him to college. Dominic became a janitor on the night shift at the K-Mart in Kankakee. In the fall, Dominic landed a job as an orderly at what is now Shapiro Developmental Center on the 3 to 11 p.m. shift. The facility was five minutes from KCC, and Dominic enrolled at KCC in the winter term of 1973-1974. In 1975, he earned an Associate in Arts degree, and had saved enough money to transfer to Illinois State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with highest honors in 1977. He then graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1985.

Dominic credits his success equally to KCC and Harvard. He explains, “I would say that both points in the arc of my education – a local community college and Harvard Law School – were equally important to forming my views as a trial lawyer and, in many respects, as a person.”

Today, Dominic is a senior partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, the largest litigation-only law firm in the U.S., with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, New York, London, Tokyo, Chicago and Mannheim, Germany. His clients include Sprint/Nextel, Miramax Films, Continental and Northwest Airlines, General Motors, Avery Dennison, and many others.

Dominic also is committed to a number of charitable causes. He returned to KCC in 2009 as the keynote speaker for the Kankakee Community College Foundation’s “Blue Tie Gala,” a donor recognition and award dinner. He resides in Los Angeles.

Dear KCC Foundation Board:

I am honored and humbled to receive the John Fulton Distinguished Alumnus Award and very much regret my schedule prevents me from personally accepting it. I was privileged to be at the banquet where John was recognized and yet more privileged to receive the award. I believe that it is much harder and much more valuable in life to do good than to do “well.” This award will serve as a constant reminder that doing good should be the first aim of a privileged life, and I will endeavor to be guided by that reminder.

In John Fulton’s honor, I will make an appropriate pledge to the KCC Foundation as a token of appreciation for providing me – as it has provided so many others, as it will continue to do so in the coming years – a necessary first step towards a life of professional and public service. I close by expressing my great thanks to the KCC community and again my regrets for being unable to personally accept the award.

Very truly yours,
Dominic Surprenant
Century Club Scholars

1984 • Deborah Daniels  
1985 • Julie Anderson  
1986 • Laurel Soper  
1987 • Coleen Fitzgerald  
1988 • Joan Dieter  
1989 • Anna Benoit, Jean Janssen  
1990 • Gary Harris, Janis Toth  
1991 • Nancy McDivitt, Andrea Walton  
1992 • Keven Haggerty, Mary Jo Webber  
1993 • John Davenport, Diane Dement  
1994 • Martin Buswell, Barbra LaMotte  
1995 • Jennifer Brady, Kindy Vaughn  
1996 • Vickie Bushey, Mary Hartung  
1997 • Mathew Curtis, Jessica Reardanz  
1998 • Paulette Jarvis, Maria Valarezo  
1999 • Robin Major, Sara Meyer  
2000 • Diana Hinderer, Michelle Rinkenberger  
2001 • Justin Mericle, Inga Yerkes  
2002 • Brandie Taylor, Melba Valarezo  
2003 • Trina Rein, Danielle Wright  
2004 • Denise Burklow, Larry Forbes  
2005 • Thomas Magers, Annie Burton  
2006 • Nora Gigl, Courtney Harms  
2007 • Nichelle Winn, Libby Vasquez  
2008 • Christopher Lewis, Rudy Hartman  
2009 • Megan Askew, Ian Walton  
2010 • Jaclyn Morgan, Katherine Sammons  
2011 • Joshua Beneze, Nicole Brenneisen

About The KCC Century Club

The KCC Century Club was established in 1984 with the intent to bridge the gap between financial hardship and the achievement of academic goals. The Century Club provides funding for tuition, books, and fees for outstanding KCC sophomore students. The Foundation administers this and other KCC scholarships to eligible students.

Two students are awarded Century Club scholarships annually. Our recipients exemplify excellence, integrity and diversity. They are students of every race, talent, and circumstance.

Century Club members understand the mission of KCC as they invest in our scholars. Your investment allows the college to achieve its mission of Enhancing Quality of Life through Learning. Membership is extended to those who make an annual donation of $125 or more per individual to the Century Club fund, or $250 or more per couple.

Thank you for sharing our vision to be a leader in creatively and rapidly responding to our community’s educational needs, emphasizing quality, affordability and effective partnerships.