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**WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION SEEKS
DONATIONS FROM AREA RESIDENTS TO MATCH CHALLENGE GRANT**

The Westchester Community College Foundation is seeking donations from the community to help raise funds for the Foundation's Gateway Campaign for student scholarships. Donations up to \$250,000 will be doubled by the Skirball Foundation through a challenge grant. Gifts given in response to the challenge will create the Skirball-Gateway Scholarship Endowment, which will offer scholarships to students seeking degrees and studying English as a Second Language at the college. In order to secure the funding, this special grant must be matched by private donations within three years.

Philanthropist Jack H. Skirball, a former rabbi who became an award-winning film producer, created the Skirball Foundation through a bequest. Based in New York City, the Foundation provides support for education and other causes.

"We are profoundly grateful for the grant," says Westchester Community College President Joseph Hankin. "The scholarship funds will provide a significant and lasting legacy to allow students to gain the education they need for success."

Shirley Contino-Phillips, the college's vice president of external affairs and executive director of the Westchester Community College Foundation, says "We are looking forward to the community's involvement in this special project. Through the financial contributions of the residents of the county, and the generosity of the Skirball Foundation, we will be able to provide scholarship opportunities for more students. This money will help the Gateway Center Project thrive and will help keep our local economy vibrant."

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The Gateway Center, a multidisciplinary project combining business, language, volunteer, and international student programs, was developed in response to the evolving needs for higher education in the county. Demographic shifts in Westchester's population, including an increase in foreign-born residents and an aging population, combined with the rapid growth of jobs that require postsecondary education, will reshape the workforce for local businesses. The Center, scheduled to open in 2008, will provide critical educational resources to meet the demand for a better educated, highly skilled workforce.

The Gateway Center, a 90,000-square-foot building on the college's main campus in Valhalla at 75 Grasslands Road, will include instructional space, technology centers, student activity space, an auditorium, conference rooms, and a café. It will also house the college's Professional Development Center (which provides workforce training to local companies and their employees) and the English Language Institute (the county's largest English as a Second Language educational resource).

Susan Rodriguez of Polshek Partnership, architect for the Heimbold Center for Visual Arts at Sarah Lawrence College and the New York Botanical Garden International Plant Science Center, will design the building.

Martin Blackman, president of the Skirball Foundation, says the organization "is pleased to support this dynamic program to meet the special educational, linguistic and cultural needs of the college's foreign-born students. The Foundation wishes to provide an incentive for others to contribute to the endowment of the program by making its grant a challenge grant."

This is the second challenge grant bestowed upon the college's Foundation. The Gateway Campaign has already met the challenge grant of \$25,000 given by the Leon Lowenstein Foundation.

Community members who wish to make a tax deductible donation to the Gateway Project should contact Linda Champanier at 914-606-6670.