



(Pictured Left to Right: Jacque Oakes, Marcel LaFlamme, Sandy Annable, Ben Seel, Judi Harris, Brian Foreman)

## News Release April 2009

### ICC Foundation Announces Sponsorship of Three Campus Projects

The Independence Community College Foundation Scholarship Committee has announced sponsorship of three major ICC Campus projects this spring. Selected projects are the public ICC Frisbee Disc Golf Course, the Campus Arboretum Project, and the ICC Library Coffee Shop. All three projects were selected for their showcasing of ICC's uniqueness among Kansas community colleges. "All of these wonderful projects will help form bridges between ICC and the community," said Jacque Oakes, Scholarship Committee member.

The Committee met in March and heard presentations by three ICC Faculty members, Ben Seel, ICC Political Science Professor; Brian Foreman, ICC Associate Professor of Biological Science; and Marcel LaFlamme, ICC Director of Learning Resources; to learn about current campus projects that will benefit campus life as well as providing a benefit to the community.

"Each of these projects provides a unique opportunity for students on the ICC Campus. Hopefully, the coffee shop, Frisbee golf course, and arboretum will entice more people from Independence and surrounding areas to enjoy the beauty of the campus!" said Sandy Annable, Scholarship Committee member, who went on to note that it was exciting to see the pride and enthusiasm that each of faculty for the students and the ICC campus.

"I think it is great for the Foundation to support these projects. The Foundation works hard to secure financing for scholarships for our students. Helping to fund the projects only ensures that our quality students enjoy their time at ICC even more!"

"Disc Golf is an activity that finds its roots in college campuses across the country," said Ben on the Frisbee Course project. "It has evolved over time, combining the rules of golf with the fun of throwing a Frisbee, and now is a sanctioned sport overseen by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)."

According to Seel, the motivation to install a course on the ICC campus is to provide students on the campus with an outdoor activity to do at their leisure plus provide an activity that will bring community members out to the ICC campus. The ICC Academic Council has approved creating a Frisbee Golf

course to teach people how to play and help hone their skills. The Foundation will support Phase Two of this project with the purchase of tee baskets.

The ICC Arboretum project report presented by Brian Foreman focused on the fact that the ICC campus is among the most beautiful community college campuses in the state of Kansas. “The campus is constructed on a retired golf course, and while the pond is original to the site, most of the trees have been planted since the campus was opened in 1970,” said Foreman.

The campus tree collection is dominated by oaks (both native and exotic), but there are a large number of other varieties. The ICC campus has the widest diversity of trees in a single public space in and around Independence. This collection of trees has been used in the past as a teaching tool for biology classes on campus as well as providing a source of enjoyment and beauty for the community and college alike.

According to Foreman, the arboretum will support the science curriculum goals and serve as an ongoing educational resource for students and additional cultural/natural resource for the citizens of the region. The Foundation will support this project with the purchase of tree identification tags.

ICC Library Coffeeshop project was presented by Marcel LaFlamme. “We see the coffeeshop as an opportunity to create a new social space for ICC students and to position the library at the center of campus life,” said LaFlamme. “

“Rather than having students come into the library to check out a book or scan through their e-mail and then leave, we hope to create an inviting, casual environment where students feel comfortable spending some of their free time. The coffee shop project has also presented us with an opportunity to partner with a locally owned business, AneMae’s of Independence, and to strengthen the connection between ICC and the community it serves.”

The ICC Library has received grant funding from the Southeast Kansas Library System to establish a library coffeeshop, which is projected to open in August 2009. The Foundation will support this project with the purchase of chairs to allow for seating on the library balconies.

The Foundation Scholarship Committee was established to oversee the awarding of the Foundation’s Endowed and Annual Scholarships and to allocate up to \$5,000.00 of the Foundation’s annual commitment to ICC to sponsor special campus projects. Members of this committee are: Sandy Annable, Judi Harris, Georgia High, and Jacque Oakes. “Every opportunity to meet with ICC faculty and learn about their project is valuable”, stated Judi Harris, Scholarship Committee member. “I feel that it is what the Foundation is all about.”