



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OKLEJAS NAMED ‘COLLEGE SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR’

MONROE, Mich. – The Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees has recognized Eli Oklejas, founder and president of Fluid Equipment Development Company (FEDCO), with the 2015 College Supporter of the Year award for his past support and continuing commitment to MCCC.

The award was presented Thursday during MCCC’s annual Business and Industry Luncheon.

According to a resolution by the Board:

The efforts of FEDCO – which was founded in Monroe in 1997 to develop new fluid machinery to reduce the cost of reverse osmosis desalination – have resulted in patented concepts, highly integrated design, superior production software and sophisticated manufacturing processes. These efforts have culminated into several lines of energy recovery turbines and high-pressure feed pumps uniquely suited for seawater reverse osmosis desalination.

Oklejas represents a new generation of entrepreneurs – following in the footsteps of the founders of world-class ventures such as La-Z-Boy Inc. and Monroe Auto Equipment – who exhibit an unwavering dedication to the Monroe community. He and FEDCO have invested in the community, not only through machinery and facilities, but also through the promotion of education, believing that it is the longest and most important investment a company can make.

Oklejas and FEDCO are steadfast supporters of MCCC, demonstrating a vision for the future that begins with an educational foundation, and in 2014 affirmed their steadfast support for higher

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education by endowing the FEDCO Science and Technology Scholarship with gifts and pledges totaling over \$120,000. This scholarship will provide a perpetual legacy of educational opportunity to deserving students in the MCCC Applied Science and Engineering Technology Division and enhance accessibility to higher education in Monroe County for generations to come.

In addition, the North Wing of the MCCC Career Technology Center now bears FEDCO's name in recognition of an \$80,000 gift to the capital campaign to help build the facility. FEDCO also recently donated a 3D printer to the college and routinely supports many other events and activities at MCCC through generous corporate sponsorships.

The company also continues to seek out and hire numerous MCCC alumni and encourages its employees to continue their education at MCCC.

The college is fortunate to have a philanthropic partner that is committed to helping expand educational opportunities in its community.

The College Supporter of the Year Award is presented annually by the Board of Trustees. Criteria considered includes general support for the college and its programs, volunteer work that supports the college, substantial financial and/or equipment contributions to the college, substantial scholarship donations, and/or extensive participation on college advisory, standing or ad hoc committees.

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