

2006 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1981 by the Barton County Community College Foundation to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for, and performed outstanding service to Barton County Community College. Each year the Foundation Board of Directors selects the recipient of this prestigious award from nominations received. This year the Foundation Board is proud to announce the **Family of Monica Bell Reser** as the recipients of the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.

This is the first time the board has chosen to recognize a family for its continued support, generosity and loyalty. In July of 1980 Monica Bell Reser was killed in an automobile accident just weeks after celebrating her 21st birthday. In October of that same year an endowment in memory of Monica was established at Barton County Community College. Monica loved both the college and the community that had been her lifetime home. The first scholarship was awarded in 1983 and since its inception, 26 years ago, over 20 young women have benefited from awards totaling over \$12,000.00.

The most unique aspect of the board's recognition of the Bell family is the total commitment of family members and their passion to support this endowment long after reaching funds necessary for endowment. At each and every opportunity, whether birthday, Christmas, Father's Day, Mother's Day or as a memorial for a lost loved one – this family chooses to honor each other and the collective love they all share for the memory of Monica by contributing to her endowment. The Bell family exemplifies the ability to make a difference in the lives of others by understanding that loyalty to a cause, while making a difference in the lives of those touched by their generosity, truly makes a difference in each of their lives as well.

Their motivation can best be summed up in the words of Monica's sister Marisa; "Our efforts through the years to build Monica's memorial scholarship have been driven by so many things including love, loss, pain, healing, growth, honor, gratitude and perpetuation of her spirit in the community she and we have all called home. Since her death, our lives have not been the same – forever changed. And I pray that over the years, the Monica Bell Reser Scholarship recipients and those around them have been and will be touched and given encouragement by Monica's beautiful, loving, vibrant, spirited presence as they take steps towards their future on the campus of Barton County Community College."

The Barton County Community College Foundation honors the memory of Monica Bell Reser by honoring the family that she loved; her father Keith Bell and stepmother Pat Bell, Brownsville, Texas; her mother Sharon Allan and sister Marisa Walters, Tulsa, Oklahoma; her sister Rhonda Dobbs of Spring, Texas; her brother K.B. Bell and stepbrothers Scott and Kelly Ravenstien of Great Bend.