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**Community College Philanthropists Honored with
2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy**

Richmond – The Harding Family of Northumberland County has received the 17th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. They were nominated for the award by Rappahannock Community College (RCC).

More than two dozen individuals, families, and organizations have earned the 2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony in Richmond on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. New VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Doré was the keynote speaker. This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has collectively contributed \$14 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

"It is a privilege and an honor to be in the company of such an esteemed group of philanthropists," Doré observed. "Were it not for your generosity, some of our students would have to put their hopes and dreams on hold, while others might have to abandon them altogether. Thanks to you, however, our students will be able to work in an environment that is relatively free of the kind of financial pressures that can paralyze or even derail their forward progress, and for that, we are extremely grateful."

Collectively, members of the Harding Family have established three endowed scholarship funds at RCC and 41 RCC students have benefitted from these scholarships. Dr. John Harding and his late wife Karen established two funds. Most recently, Dr. Harding and his sister Ms. Marion Carey Harding established the Judith Straughan Harding Scholarship to honor their grandmother for her strength, love of her children, and dedication to the education of young people in Northumberland County. Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great grandchild of Judith Straughan Harding attended the philanthropy award luncheon.

RCC President, Dr. Shannon Kennedy remarked, "The Harding Family shows their love and respect for important people in their lives through these endowed scholarships. What an extraordinary way to remember loved ones! We're grateful to this upstanding family for their generosity and commitment to our students."