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Jim and Sue Cole endows SPC scholarship

LEVELLAND – The Cole Family Scholarship has been established with the South Plains College Foundation and will award its first scholarship recipient in the fall 2008.

Jim Cole and Sue Jo Cole of Levelland jointly contributed \$25,000 to endow the program. The endowment will fund a \$1,000 scholarship annually.

“It’s an honor to host the Cole Family Scholarship at South Plains College,” said Dr. Kelvin Sharp, President of South Plains College. “The legacy of education of the Cole family dates back in Levelland to the 1920s. That legacy will continue into the future.”

The Cole Family Scholarship is a general college-wide scholarship that will benefit a full-time student. Applicants must submit an SPC Scholarship Application for consideration.

“Education is very important to us, and this scholarship will transcend our family to help future students,” said Sue Cole.

Jim Cole grew up in Levelland and graduated from Texas Tech University. He is retired from Texaco where he worked 34 years as district office supervisor for the marketing department and later as a support administrator for the Office of the President of Texaco USA. Cole is active in the community. He has served on the Mainstreet Board of Directors and is active in the Levelland Noon Rotary Club where he currently is Governor Elect for Rotary District 5730.

Sue Cole also is a graduate of Texas Tech. She is a former educator who taught for 23 in Brownfield prior to coming back to Levelland in 1981. She taught for 10 years and retired in 1991. She is active in the Las Fideles Study Club, which supports Children’s Hope, Disciples in Action, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center as well as provides educational programs.

The surviving children of the late Percy and Maude (Felty) Cole chose to support South Plains College primarily because of the impact the college has had on the Levelland community. The Cole family traces its origins to 1925 when Percy Cole came to Levelland to start a Texaco distributorship. Maude Felty came to Levelland in 1928 from Oklahoma to

teach in the public school. The Coles had four children, two of whom are deceased. Jim's twin brother John worked 35 years for Texaco before retiring in Houston. He died in July 2004. A sister Jane taught 36 years in Levelland public schools before retiring in 1990. She died in May 2007.

The Cole siblings said they believe the college provides, "A good step off to help students transition to four-year institutions." She added that SPC gives students a personal touch not found at other places.

"Jim and Sue Cole continue to be great friends of South Plains College," Dr. Sharp said. "This family has a sincere interest in improving each student's life."

For more information, contact the SPC Development Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2020.

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