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PLANNING FOR 2009 SCHOLARSHIP GALA NOW UNDERWAY

LEVELLAND – This year’s Scholarship Gala hosted by the South Plains College Foundation and corporate host City Bank will feature a little star power as event organizers seek to raise more than \$100,000 in scholarship contributions for next year’s SPC students.

The 11th annual event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 on the campus of South Plains College.

Headlining the evening’s entertainment will be former SPC student and country music recording star Richie McDonald, who catapulted to music fame as the lead singer for the group Lone Star. McDonald is now branching out in a solo career that is winning him much acclaim.

“We are very excited that Richie McDonald has accepted our invitation to perform for Gala participants,” said Russell Hall, director of development at SPC. “He has had a stellar music career with Lone Star and he will be performing some of the group’s most memorable songs that evening. His appearance will make this year’s gala a very special event.”

In addition to McDonald’s performance, the “Boots and Pearls” Scholarship Gala will include a gourmet dinner, recognition of this year’s Pacesetter recipients, a unique auction and exceptional dinner entertainment from the South Plains Big Band and Dance Orchestra, all of which benefits scholarships at South Plains College.

City Bank has joined the SPC Foundation in helping support the event as gala host. Lesa Wood is supporting the event as an underwriting partner.

Diamond level underwriting sponsors include Benchmark Business Solutions, Hockley County School Employees Credit Union, the James and Sycily Lattimore Family, Lynnwood Townhomes, Macha Insurance Agency/HRH Insurance of Amarillo, Paul Musslewhite Trucking Co., SPC Texan Club, Smith South Plains Ford & Dodge, South Plains Community Action Association, Worley Welding Works, and Xcel Energy.

“Last year, more than 560 people joined the college, our underwriting sponsors and the Foundation in raising funds for college scholarships,” said Hall. “We’re wanting to involve even more

people in this year's gala and top the \$100,000 that was raised for scholarships last year. We are already seeing a lot of support from the community."

Individual benefactor tickets are \$100 per person and can be obtained from the South Plains College Development Office. Various levels of sponsorship and participation are available to interested businesses and individuals, Hall said. The table sponsorship levels include a Diamond Level, \$2,000; Platinum Level, \$1,000; Gold Level, \$800; and Silver Level, \$400.

"We're expecting a number of local businesses and individuals to join in this effort," said Hall. "Gala Committee members are helping plan and develop involvement. We are very appreciative of the support we are receiving."

A reception will open the evening's activities, followed by a five-course gourmet dinner served at tableside. "Our Gala Committee is planning an enjoyable evening of fine dining, great fellowship and outstanding entertainment," said Hall.

For more information about table sponsorships or tickets, contact the SPC Development Office at (806) 716-2020.

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