

Update from the
Office of
The President
Dr. Dene Kay Thomas



After years of effort, I am excited to say that Fort Lewis College is getting the first phase of funding from the state to build its new Geosciences, Physics and Engineering (GPE) Building. A second phase of funding from the state will come in the future, but the College will need to raise money from private sources to complete the project.

The need to raise money for projects like the GPE Building, as well as future uncertainty regarding state and federal funding for higher education, led us to hire additional staff in order to increase the Fort Lewis College Foundation's capacity to generate private support for the College.

Among the hires is new FLC Vice President for Advancement Mark Jastorff. Mark will lead the effort to strengthen relationships with alumni and friends, as well as secure private support for the College. He has more than 30 years experience in higher education, most recently serving as executive director of the Metropolitan State University of Denver Alumni Association

In addition to a vice president for Advancement, two major gift officers were brought on board. The major gift officer's role is to bring in larger investments from a range of sources, from individuals to foundations.

One of the major gift officers hired is Sarah Pretzer. She comes to Fort Lewis College from the Community College of Aurora Foundation where she was a campaign specialist. It was there that she oversaw the Transforming Lowry, Transforming Lives capital campaign. Sarah will be based in Durango at Fort Lewis College.

Andy Miller, an alumnus of Fort Lewis College, is the other major gift officer hired. He will be based out of the Front Range to better enhance the FLC Foundation's presence in an area where thousands of Fort Lewis College alumni are located. Andy has worked in relationship sales, development and fundraising in both the for-profit and non-profit arenas. He was most recently a major gift officer for the University of Wyoming Foundation. More detailed profiles of Mark, Andy and Sarah will be forthcoming in the next edition of the Foundation's newsletter.

Information on how the new Geosciences, Physics and Engineering Building will help FLC students can be found at [this link](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dene Thomas".

Dr. Dene Kay Thomas
President