

H.R. and Sally Gentsch and Harrisonville Telephone Company Awarded Special Recognition by Board of Trustees



The Southwestern Illinois College Board of Trustees has awarded H.R. and Sally Gentsch and Harrisonville Telephone Company a Special Recognition award for their generous contributions to the College.

“Harrisonville Telephone Company is proud to be a Southwestern Illinois College scholarship sponsor, providing an annual scholarship to each of the six high schools in the company’s service territory. The company has participated in the scholarship program since 1990. It has been a rewarding experience to provide this assistance in helping local students move forward with their continuing education.”

Servicing more than 20,000 customers in Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair counties, Harrisonville Telephone Company and its sister companies, HTC Communications Co. and HTC Technologies Co., provide telephone, long distance, Direct TV, cellular, Internet and high-speed DSL services. Recognizing the roots of its success, good citizenship has been the hallmark of this telecommunications company headquartered in Waterloo.

It was 14 years ago that Harrisonville made its first scholarship gift to the Southwestern Illinois College Foundation. That gift, which has continued annually, now provides six \$1500 scholarships each year for high school graduates from Columbia, Dupo, Gibault, Red Bed, Valmeyer and Waterloo who will attend Southwestern full time.

In addition, Harrisonville Telephone Company is a member of the Masters of Arts, those who have made significant contributions to the Schmidt Art Center. The company also has made gifts totaling more than \$100,000 to the Foundation. The YMCA of Southwest Illinois, Southern Illinois University Carbondale and community organizations throughout Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair counties also are beneficiaries of the company's generosity.

H.R. Gentsch, president and CEO of the company, and his wife, Sally, have involved themselves in many facets of the community in which Harrisonville is so great a part. Mr. Gentsch is a member of the Okaw Valley Boy Scouts executive committee, as well as the Waterloo, Columbia and Red Bud chambers of commerce. He is a member of the board of directors of First Cellular of Southern Illinois, and a member of the board of directors and past president of the Illinois Telecommunications Association. As the honorary co-chairman of the YMCA-Monroe County \$6 million capital campaign, he is involved in the efforts to raise funds for a new site. Mrs. Gentsch is a former Brownie and Girl Scout leader and a member of the Delta Delta Delta Alumni Chapter in Belleville.

The Gentschs live in the Waterloo-Columbia are. They have two daughters, Karen and Karla, and five grandchildren, Karla and her husband, David, attended classes at the Belleville Campus. Karen also attended classes at the Belleville Campus, and was a member of the tennis team.