

## **The Don '72 and Jamie Garrett Civil Engineering Technology Lab at SUNY Canton**

### **Brief Biography of Honoree & Justification:**

Don Garrett was born and raised in Carthage, New York. He graduated in 1972 from SUNY Canton with an A.A.S. degree in Civil Engineering Technology. Don was employed after graduation by Perfetto and Whalen in Syracuse as a project manager, where a combination of hard work, smart decisions and opportunity enabled him to take leadership roles on large projects and advance in his career.

In 1977 Don moved to Southwest Florida, and in 1981 he launched his own company, D. Garrett Construction, Inc., a premiere Naples builder and general contractor now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The company specializes in all aspects of construction for private golf and country clubs. Don's clients over the years have included many of the best in class throughout Southwest Florida. He is also Chairman and CEO of LMGOF, the Lifestyle Management Group of Florida. Don is the current owner of The Club at Gateway, which was purchased from the members on Easter 2018.

Don was a founding member of two banks and he has been actively involved in a variety of corporate and civic organizations, serving as a former Board member of Synovus bank, the First Florida Bank, the Fifth Third Bank, and the YMCA of Collier County. Don is also the Past President of the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce, the Contractor's Association of Collier County, The Pelican Bay Rotary Club, and The Easter Seal Society.

Don has always been grateful for the opportunities that were afforded him as the result of his education and degree from SUNY Canton. He made his first gift to the school ten years after graduation and steadily increased his giving to become a significant donor to the Canton Fund. This spring, after visiting campus for the first time since he graduated, Don and his wife, Jamie Rhoads Garrett, decided to pay it forward in a much more significant way through the establishment of a naming gift that will ensure the same excellent educational opportunities are available for students in future generations.

Don '72 and Jamie Garrett's pledge commitment is a total of \$100,000, with the first installment already received and the balance to be paid over the next four years. Separately, Don has also pledged a \$50,000 gift from his company, to be paid over five year specifically to support SUNY Canton's Steel Bridge Team.

## ***Resolution***

### **The Don '72 and Jamie Garrett Civil Engineering Technology Lab**

***WHEREAS***, Mr. Donald F. Garrett is a 1972 graduate of SUNY Canton's Civil Engineering Technology program, and he proudly credits his business success to the knowledge and excellent skills he acquired in the course of obtaining his SUNY Canton degree; and

***WHEREAS***, Mr. Garrett has had an extremely successful career in both the banking and construction industries, and his company, D. Garrett Construction, Inc. has become one of the premier builders in Southwest Florida with a long list of high-profile clients including numerous golf and country clubs, yacht clubs, corporate and residential projects; and

***WHEREAS***, Mr. Garrett continues to exemplify the values of SUNY Canton through extensive community involvement and volunteer service in a variety of corporate and civic organizations including regional bank boards, the YMCA of Collier County, the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce, the Pelican Bay Rotary Club and the Easter Seal Society; and

***WHEREAS***, Mr. Garrett and his wife, Jamie Rhoads Garrett, have demonstrated exemplary commitment to educating the next generation of students and ensuring that future students have access to the same educational opportunities that were available to Don; and

***WHEREAS***, Don '72 and Jamie Garrett have pledged a \$100,000 gift to support the Civil Engineering Technology program at SUNY Canton SUNY over the next five years;

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:*** That the College Council of the State University of New York, College of Technology at Canton, designates the Civil Engineering Technology Lab in Nevaldine Hall as the Don '72 and Jamie Garrett Civil Engineering Technology Lab, this the twenty-first day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

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Ronald M. O'Neill  
Chairman, College Council

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Zvi Szafran  
President