

Foundation Gala raises record \$204,458 for student financial assistance

The Lee College Foundation's 34th annual gala raised \$204,458, making it the most successful fundraising gala in the organization's history. The gala was held Sept. 27 at the Sylvan Beach Pavilion in La Porte, Texas, where more than 300 supporters, community members, and industry leaders attended.

The money raised during the event will go directly to deserving Lee College students for tuition scholarships, textbooks, equipment and supplies. Some of the money will also go toward the Student Success fund, which helps students with unexpected expenses directly related to enrollment and persistence in class.

"We are proud to say that the Lee College Foundation is healthy and going strong," said Pam Warford, Executive Director of Foundation & Resource Development at Lee College. "But the need in our community is still great, and we won't stop striving until that need is met for every student possible."

"There is still room for anyone who wants to join us in making a difference in our community and changing lives for generations," Warford said.

Miguel Lopez, Lee College alumnus and past recipient of the Pat Mann Memorial Scholarship, spoke to the crowd about how pivotal the Foundation has been in his life.

"You made my dream of graduating into a reality," Lopez told donors. "Your impact on my life has inspired me and many other students to be the next generation of donors."

Some of the top-selling items in the evening's live auction included a photo and baseball bat signed by Houston Astros first-baseman Yordan Alvarez, which sold for \$1,800; a dinner at the home of Junior and Robin Forrest, owners of Ainsworth & Co. and Junior's Smokehouse in Highlands, which sold for \$2,100; and a catered Super Bowl party at the home of Lee College Board Vice Chairman Gilbert Santana, which sold for \$2,000.

Last academic year, the Lee College Foundation raised a total of \$1.2 million through donations and investment returns. Established in 1968, the Lee College Foundation is committed to making a difference in the lives of students by providing financial assistance wherever it is needed. For more information, contact Pam Warford at 281.425.6361 or visit <https://www.lee.edu/foundation/>.