

Office of Marketing & Public Relations

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****February 3, 2006****Corning Community College Alum Donates \$100,000 to Major Gifts Campaign Endowing Ernest E. Johnston Memorial Scholarship**

Corning Community College's Development Foundation has announced that its first-ever Major Gifts Campaign, *From Past to Future Generations...Investing in a Strong Community*, has secured \$100,000 from CCC alum Lawrence R. Johnston '70 for the endowment of the Ernest E. Johnston Memorial Scholarship. The community phase of the Campaign will continue through August 31 and include participation from alumni, individuals, foundations and corporate contributors over a five-year pledge period.

The Ernest E. Johnston Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Corning, NY high school student who is enrolling full-time at CCC at the beginning of the fall semester and who has the "best mix between financial need and academic performance". Financial need is defined as 100 percent financial aid eligibility. The scholarship will be presented annually as a two-year scholarship. Each student will be awarded \$2,500 per year – one for a freshman and one for a continuation for the sophomore year.

The scholarship was established to honor Lawrence R. Johnston's father, Ernest E. Johnson, and to celebrate the qualities and values he modeled to his son and community. Ernest E. Johnston was an employee of Corning Building Company for over thirty years, a loyal member of Grace United Methodist Church and President of the Corning Council of Churches.

Lawrence R. Johnston is Chairman of the Board, CEO and President of Albertsons, Inc., one of the world's largest food and drug retailers. A Fortune 50 company, Albertsons has annual revenues of over \$40 billion and employs more than 240,000 associates in its network of 2,500 retail stores. The company's banners include Albertsons, Acme, Shaw's, Jewel-Osco, Sav-on Drugs, Osco Drug, Star Markets, Super Saver and Bristol Farms.

Prior to joining Albertsons in April 2001, Mr. Johnston spent 28 years with General Electric (GE) in a variety of leadership assignments. In his last role at GE, he served as President and CEO of GE Appliances, a \$6 billion global business.

He currently serves as a board member for The Home Depot in Atlanta, GA, The Food Marketing Institute in Washington, DC and CIES World Food Forum in Paris, France. Mr. Johnston earned his A.S. in Liberal Arts from Corning Community College and his B.A. in Business Administration from Stetson University.

"My father was a wonderful and loving man who always encouraged me to get the college education that he never had the opportunity to get himself," stated Johnston. "He worked hard and put in long hours, as did my mother, to provide an education for me. I am proud to support the CCC Major Gifts Campaign."

As of January 31, 2006, the Campaign has raised just under \$4 million in cash in pledges from private sources including one hundred percent participation by the CCC Regional Board of Trustees, Development Foundation board members and Alumni Association board members. Combined with the availability of state matching funds for portions of private sources, over \$6 million raised to date indicates that the Foundation's goal of \$7 million is attainable.

In January 2005, the CCC Development Foundation, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, launched the Major Gifts Campaign to help the region resolve challenges and capitalize on opportunities. The Campaign offers an opportunity to invest in the future of our region by increasing access and opportunity, providing seed money to initiate new programs and to enhance quality of life.

Initiatives include *Access and Opportunity*: Outreach and Scholarships; *Program Growth and Development*: New Program Development and Technology Upgrades; *Community Enrichment/Quality of Life*: Infrastructure and Visiting Scholar Series.

For additional information, please call (607) 962-9458.

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