



**Wharton County
Junior College**

**Proposed Agenda Item
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Complete this form and submit it to the Office of the President by 5:00 pm on the eleventh day before the following Tuesday meeting of the Board of Trustees. If this form does not provide enough space, you may use an expanded version *as long as you follow the format specified below.*

Date of Board Meeting: 08/18/2020 Date of This Proposal: 08/10/2020

SUBJECT (item as it will appear on agenda):

Sister Mary Alma Pilarski Nursing Scholarship Endowment

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the establishment of the Sister Mary Alma Pilarski Nursing Scholarship Endowment.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Dr. Carol Ashton has contacted WCJC administration and wishes to establish a nursing scholarship endowment in memory of her great aunt, Sister Mary Alma Pilarski. If established, the earnings from this endowment will be used to fund a scholarship to be awarded to a nursing student in the final year of the program. Dr. Ashton has forwarded a \$4,000 check to be used for a one-time scholarship to be awarded in the 2020-21 school year. Next May, a \$100,000 check will be given to formally commence the endowment.

Estimated Cost and Budgetary Support (how will this be paid for?): \$_____

RESOURCE PERSON(S) [name(s) and title(s)]:

SIGNATURES:

B. Skocian
Originator

8/10/2020
Date

B. Skocian
Cabinet-Level Supervisor

8/10/2020
Date

PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL:

Betty G. McCracken

8-10-20



ENDOWED SCH

Wharton County Junior College

911 Boling Highway • Wharton, Texas 77488 • (979) 532-4560

I. Identification

- A. Name of Endowment Fund: Sister Mary Alma Pilarski Nursing Scholarship
- B. Amount of Contribution
- \$4000 contributed in August, 2020 as a one-time scholarship for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
 - \$100,000 in endowment funds contributed in May, 2021
 - Additional contribution(s) may be made by friends and family members of Sister Mary Alma Pilarski who are so inclined
- C. Date Established: August , 2020
- D. Date of First Award: Fall, 2020
- E. Grantor Name: Carol Ashton M.D., M.P.H.
Address: PO Box 4; Blessing, TX 77419
Telephone: (713) 705-1837

II. General Conditions

This scholarship is established to assist students entering their final year of the ADN program.

Grantor, Dr. Carol Ashton, will fund the initial 2020-2021 scholarship with a \$4,000 initial contribution. The entirety of the initial \$4000 contribution in August 2020 will be used to fund one scholarship for a student who meets the qualifications for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Dr. Ashton will contribute the endowment award of \$100,000 in May, 2021. The principal of this endowment will be invested according to Wharton County Junior College's approved Investment Management Plan. 80% of endowment earnings will be transferred to the scholarship fund and 20% will be retained to increase the principal. The total number of \$4000 scholarships awarded yearly is based on the interest earned on the endowment, with any unspent funds returned to the scholarship account to be awarded in future years.

This endowment will be managed by Wharton County Junior College (Grantee) in perpetuity according to National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) guidelines, "Endowed funds represent the school's promise to donors to use income and investment gains generated by their gift into perpetuity. Donors often stipulate the purpose for which funds can be spent and expect funds to last into perpetuity."

Grantee agrees to use the funds exclusively for the purpose approved by the Grantor, as stated in this agreement. Grantee agrees to keep its financial records so that they adequately show that grant funds were used exclusively for the purpose stated in this agreement.

III. Recipient Qualifications

To qualify for this scholarship, the student must:

- Be currently enrolled in the WCJC Associate Degree Nursing program, with at least 18 credit hours of RNSG classes complete. Student must be entering his/her final year of the program; and
- Display financial need through the completion of the Federal Financial Aid verification process; and
- Achieve and maintain a successful Satisfactory Academic Progress status. Maintenance of Satisfactory Academic Progress will be criterion for award for a second semester; and
- Display, through previous volunteer, internship, and/or work activities, a responsiveness to the health needs of rural communities; or,
- Indicate, in an essay, the intention to pursue a career in nursing education, the reasons for the career choice, and the plans for achieving milestones on the path to that goal.

IV. Selection Process

The recipient(s) will be selected through the process utilized to award WCJC endowment scholarships, with input from the Director of Associate Degree Nursing as needed. The endowment scholarship application will include an essay component, which students who would like to be considered for the Sister Mary Alma Pilarski Nursing Scholarship will complete.

Upon selection, the recipient(s) will receive an award offer including the award letter, terms of agreement, and a copy of the Sister Mary Alma Pilarski's biosketch. Within the award letter, scholarship recipients will be instructed to send a letter of gratitude to Dr. Carol Ashton. Upon receipt of the terms of agreement document and a copy of the

thank-you letter, WCJC staff will credit the scholarship to the student's account. WCJC Financial Aid staff will send Dr. Carol Ashton notification of award recipients through postal mail.

V. Provisions for Future Changes in Scholarship Terms

Dr. Carol Ashton can recommend any changes in terms for this scholarship. If she is deceased, Dr. Ashton's spouse, Nelda P. Wray MD MPH, can recommend these changes. If both Drs. Ashton and Wray are deceased, Dr. Ashton's nephew can recommend these changes. Dr. Wray's address and the nephew's name and address follows:

Nelda P. Wray MD MPH
P.O. Box 4
Blessing, TX 77419
713-303-1473

Michael D. Viscuso
1462 Knightsbridge Drive
Blue Bell, PA 19422
610-639-1492

VI. Catalog and Website Description

The endowment for the Sister Mary Alma Pilarski Nursing Scholarship was given to Wharton County Junior College in the memory of this exemplary and inspiring nursing educator and leader by her grand-niece Carol M. Ashton M.D., M.P.H. of Blessing, Texas. It is hoped that the scholarship, given to support second-year students in the WCJC Associate Degree Nursing Program, will encourage recipients to serve the health care needs of rural communities and/or to launch a career in nursing education.

VII. Approvals

I hereby accept the conditions and terms of this scholarship endowment as specified above.

Carol M. Ashton MD MPH
CAROL M. ASHTON
Grantor

August 6, 2020
Date

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Date

The endowment for the **Sister Mary Alma Pilarski Nursing Scholarship** was given to Wharton County Junior College in the memory of this exemplary and inspiring nursing educator and leader by her grand-niece Carol M. Ashton M.D., M.P.H. of Blessing, Texas. It is hoped that the scholarship, given to support second-year students in the WCJC Associate Degree Nursing Program, will encourage recipients to serve the health care needs of rural communities and/or to launch a career in nursing education.

Sister Mary Alma Pilarski C.S.S.F., R.N., M.A.



Sister Mary Alma, C.S.S.F., R.N., M.A.
Director of Nursing

Sister Mary Alma (Joan Pilarski) devoted her life to the care of the sick and the education of nurses.

She was born to John and Mary Pilarski on October 29, 1907 in Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania. In 1921 she entered a Catholic Franciscan community of religious women, the Congregation of Sisters of Saint Felix of Cantalice (Felicians), based in Lodi, New Jersey. She made her first profession of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in 1926. She died at age 72, in her 56th year as a Felician sister. Her life was spent at the disposal of her Felician superiors, who sent her where she was most needed.

Sister Alma entered the nursing profession after teaching elementary school for nine years. She received a diploma in nursing from Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing in New York City, a baccalaureate degree in nursing education from Catholic University in Washington DC, and a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

After a posting to serve the sick at San Jose Hospital in Santurce, Puerto Rico, Sister Alma was sent to Blackwell General Hospital in Blackwell, Oklahoma, a small town in rural north central Oklahoma. She organized and directed the Blackwell General Hospital School of Practical Nursing, which was established in 1948. It was Oklahoma's first school of practical nursing. A new hospital was constructed during Sister Alma's tenure in Blackwell. She supervised the transfer of patients from the old hospital to the new building and served as hospital administrator during her last year there. In May 1955 Blackwell was devastated by a tornado which killed at least 17 people and injured 200. As the only hospital for miles, Blackwell General and its physicians, nurses, and staff served as a central triage and treatment facility for people hurt by this disaster, under the leadership of Sister Alma.

Sister Alma was then transferred to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she served as director of Saint Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing from 1955 to 1963. From 1963 to 1965 Sister Alma served as director of Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Orange, New Jersey.

In 1965 Sister Alma was transferred to Felician College in Lodi, New Jersey and charged with founding and directing the college's associate degree program in nursing (ADN). Felician College's ADN program was the first such program in New Jersey. She led and developed this flourishing program until her sudden death in 1980 from a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

More than 1,000 registered nurses and many licensed practical nurses graduated under Sister Alma's leadership over the years.

Perceptive, unassuming but with unwavering principles, a steadfast and tireless leader who gave more of herself than she expected from others, Sister Alma was always accessible to her students, who loved her for her direct gaze, wisdom, and wry sense of humor.

Sister Alma helped to guide nursing education in its evolution from being largely hospital-based diploma programs, in which nursing students resided at their teaching hospitals, led restricted external lives, and obtained most of their training at the bedside, to college-based associate and baccalaureate programs, in which classroom learning prepares for and augments training obtained through direct patient care. She also helped her students understand their evolving role as professionals in the medical and patient-care hierarchy. In 1970 she opened her address to the incoming class of nursing students with the statement, "Realize that nurses are no longer to be the so-called 'handmaidens of physicians'..."

Sister Mary Amata, a nurse and fellow Felician College faculty member, said this of Sister Alma: "To the students, Sister Mary Alma was the patients' advocate; to the faculty, she was the students' advocate; and to the administration, she was the faculty's advocate. Her protective arms encompassed all for whom she was responsible."