HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ANNUAL UPDATE

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HEARTLAND INSPIRES LIVES THROUGH ACCESSIBLE AND PERSONALIZED STUDENT SUPPORT,

EXEMPLARY INNOVATION, AND HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING.
From the President
Heartland Community College welcomes the opportunity to share its Annual Update with our friends, our partners and our many supporters.

Heartland has served its District 540 constituents for nearly 25 years and we’re proud of what we’ve helped our students and communities accomplish in that time. Inspired by almost a quarter-century of shared achievements, the College continues to reaffirm three of its most fundamental commitments:

**STUDENT SUCCESS IS OUR PRIMARY GOAL**, and the bedrock of all College operations. Our faculty, staff and administrators are dedicated to building meaningful, lasting relationships with every learner before, during and after their Heartland experience. Our programs and services are focused on their needs, goals and ambitions. Students are the heart of our organization and we exist to support them on their unique paths to college, career and life achievement.

**RESPONSIVENESS TO EMERGING COMMUNITY NEEDS** enhances the economic vitality of our district and the broader Central Illinois region. Lifelong learning and customized training opportunities are an important part of our mission. Accordingly, we are steadfastly devoted to helping our district residents, local businesses and regional employers address their distinct needs to realize their diverse objectives.

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY** is a principal focus of the College. As a steward of public dollars and student tuition and fees, Heartland is entrusted with providing District 540 quality academic programs and valuable community services. We will continue to utilize existing revenue streams judiciously, as well as identify and pursue new and innovative sources of funding that allow our constituents to achieve shared objectives. This will ensure Heartland’s sustainability now and in the future.

On behalf of all representatives of Heartland Community College, I hope you enjoy this annual overview of the College as we look forward to another meaningful and prosperous year.

Sincerely,

President Robert D. Widmer
Heartland Community College
HCC Takes Steps to Offer Physical Therapist Assistant Program

As part of its vision to be an adaptable community resource, Heartland makes a special effort to respond to the needs of the local labor market. To that end, the College plans to offer a physical therapist assistant degree program. The need for physical therapist assistants was identified in a 2012 collaborative visioning effort.

“The visioning initiative encouraged us to address regional demands in healthcare occupations, offer promising career paths for students and encourage the regional retention of graduates,” said Becky LaMont, dean of Health and Human Services. “Healthcare participants in that forum specifically identified physical therapist assistant as a critical need, and we are responding to that demand quickly and diligently.”

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy treatments and procedures. Under the direction of a licensed physical therapist, PTAs carry out the plan of care, document the progress of treatment and modify the treatment within the plan of care to progress the patient, optimize outcomes or ensure safety.

The physical therapist assistant program will be selective admission, with students in Heartland’s district given preference. Since 90% of HCC students stay in the community after they graduate, these future PTAs—and their counterparts in nursing, radiography and emergency medical services—will significantly enhance the region’s healthcare capacity by providing well-trained professionals.

“Healthcare participants in that forum specifically identified physical therapist assistant as a critical need, and we are responding to that demand quickly and diligently.”
They can enroll at Heartland as juniors and continue taking classes during their senior year. This program allows them to experience college credit courses, enjoy small class sizes in the comfort of their hometown high school or career center and receive personal attention from highly qualified faculty.

There are three components to College N.O.W.:
- Success Education
- General Education
- Career Technical Education

Each component meets the needs of students at a particular point in their college readiness. Success Education provides GPS: Guided Path to Success workshops or HCC’s student success course. This pathway helps students develop time management skills, financial responsibility and strategies that lead to college success and independence. After taking the student success course or workshops, students can complete a portfolio and earn up to three college credits for their participation.

The General Education pathway allows qualified students the opportunity to take general education courses that will transfer to a four-year university. This option is intended to increase students’ confidence in their ability to complete required college courses, to do so in a more personalized atmosphere—and at a lower cost than at a four-year institution.

The Career Technical Education pathway gives students a jump-start on specific certificate/degree programs at HCC. This option allows students to prepare for occupations that afford meaningful employment immediately following high school.

Sue and Chris Haag of Bloomington are parents of College N.O.W. graduates. “Our children took advanced math classes while still at Normal Community High School. This program allowed both of them to build confidence and earn college credits before leaving home. It also freed up their schedules to double-major in one case and to participate in an accelerated master’s degree program in the other.”
College research indicated a local interest in education and training programs in these fields of study. As a result, the College developed the proposed program with the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) using a U.S. Department of Labor grant. Curricula developed in partnership with IGEN are expected to prepare students for two paths:

- Transfer to a four-year university to pursue additional training
- Pursue an immediate career in the green economy using the strong technical skills developed in the program

Included in the program are career and technical education coursework and technical electives in environmental control, biofuels, geothermal systems or heating and air conditioning.

Graduates of the certificate and degree program can earn related credentials offered by IGEN partner institutions.

Graduates will be employable in areas requiring:

- Design, installation/repair and maintenance technicians in building automation
- Geothermal installation and repair
- Building sustainability and energy collection (such as hydropower, solar thermal power and biofuel production)

They will also be eligible for advancement into management or technical sales.

By offering these new sustainable energy systems degree and certificate programs, Heartland continues its commitment to the core value of environmental stewardship.

HCC is now the only authorized General Educational Development (GED) Testing Center in McLean County. It’s a meaningful and logical change for students.

“Because Heartland offers tuition-free GED classes for adults aged 17 and older who want to prepare for the exam, it is ideal to offer the testing here as well,” said Jill Blair, dean of Adult Education.

“Centralizing testing at Heartland eliminates duplication of services and reduces the cost of the program within Heartland’s district—a major intent of the federal mandate to consolidate services throughout the country.”

A new, computer-based version of the GED exam was rolled out in 2014, eliminating the paper-based version. The updated exam includes four test sections:
- Reasoning through Language Arts
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Science
- Social Studies

Scoring metrics for the test have improved tremendously. They include a summary of scores and identify students’ strengths and areas for improvement within the four assessments.

The updated scoring system also offers non-traditional students opportunities to demonstrate job and college readiness through supplemental endorsements that can be added to the GED credential. In some instances, the restructured assessment targets Common Core State Standards as well as career and college-readiness standards.
Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council Partners with Heartland Community College

Adam Dontz, chief executive officer for the Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council (GLCEDC), works to enrich Livingston County’s current and future businesses. For Livingston County manufacturers and its workforce, that’s something to celebrate.

“Local employers are the quickest path to job creation,” Dontz said. “To that end, we’re charged with seeking, understanding and acting on the unique business needs of this community as quickly, efficiently and effectively as possible. It’s been a lot of work, but it’s worth it to see these kinds of results,” he said.

The outcomes include a collaborative partnership between Livingston County employers, Heartland Community College and the Illinois Workforce Investment Board. With these important players at the table, the business community identified a workforce-specific curriculum that HCC developed and offered as a condensed, six-week training program, Fundaments of Modern Manufacturing.

Graduates of the 2013 class were able to meet the immediate needs of the partner employers, which included nearly 3,000 manufacturing jobs in Livingston County. Each graduate was employed by a local manufacturer within six weeks of completing the program. A second class graduated from the Fundaments of Modern Manufacturing training program in April 2014, furthering the economic vitality and partnerships established through the initiative.

“Our business partners and the Customized Training team from Heartland Community College are extremely pleased with the outcome,” Dontz said. “But no one is more pleased than the program graduates and their employers. All twelve individuals now have great starts to rewarding careers in manufacturing and local companies have skilled employees trained to meet their unique job requirements. The program is really an example of collaboration done right.”

“In addition to attracting new businesses to the area, the GLCEDC is making it easier for current manufacturers to continue operating in Livingston County,” Dontz asserted. “There is a vast manufacturing network in this area and a major goal of the GLCEDC is to encourage its continued growth and stability.”
Next Step to Help Disadvantaged Central Illinois Residents Hurdle Economic Obstacles

Part of Heartland’s institutional vision includes serving as a community resource.

One example of that commitment is Heartland Community College’s Next Step program, a collaborative effort among Heartland Community College, Mid Central Community Action, United Way of McLean County and the University of Illinois College of Law. These organizations have joined forces to provide the resources individuals need to achieve financial independence.

“Our job is to be a referring agent. We see what the need is and find out how we can help,” said Janice Tamplin, associate director of Next Step. “We want to see people get a job, save money and pay their loans back.”

Specifically, Next Step provides each participant a coach to help them establish goals toward financial independence so they don’t have to live paycheck to paycheck. To reach their financial goals, participants increase their net worth, improve their credit score, find a job and establish a relationship with a financial institution. The target is to help people achieve this in less than two years.

In addition, Next Step participants enroll in courses through HCC’s College Navigator program and are connected with campus liaisons who can help them discover their interests and skills as they pursue their educational paths.

Governmental Updates

Lobbying efforts
Advocacy and relationship building are the cornerstones of governmental relations at Heartland Community College. In 2013, staff and students from the Student Government Association and Adult Education took active roles in lobbying efforts to the General Assembly in Springfield. Meetings with elected representatives from District 540 provided Heartland’s staff and students opportunities to engage with officials on several topics and showcased a commitment to the continued success of the College’s mission and initiatives.

EDC One Voice Trip to Washington, D.C.
Along with regional businesses, local government and educational institutions, HCC joined the March 2013 Bloomington Normal Economic Development Council (EDC) One Voice trip to Washington, D.C. Vice President of Continuing Education and Advancement Mary Beth Trakinat and Executive Director of Governmental Relations Janet Hill-Getz participated in the agribusiness-focused lobbying effort that combined meetings with representatives from the U.S. Senate, Congress, Department of Labor and the Department of Agriculture.

Visioning Breakfast
In its continued efforts to engage community stakeholders, Heartland hosted a Visioning Breakfast with elected officials in early 2013 to update city, county, state and national representatives on the planning discussions for the College’s future. Participants were invited to share their insights and perspectives on common themes that regional businesses, industries, social organizations and education representatives had provided in similar discussions earlier in the Visioning process.

Legislation and HCC
The office of Governmental Relations continues to follow legislative interests that could impact students, staff and policies of the College. Among the concerns for Heartland employees and students in the past year were pension reform and return-to-work legislation, the Monetary Award Program and Higher Education Student Assistance Act, textbook affordability and funding for veterans’ academic pursuits.
HCC a Leader in Community College Emergency Preparedness

Knowing what to do in an emergency requires advance preparation. That’s why Heartland is continually enhancing its disaster response readiness.

HCC is one of nine colleges and universities invited to participate in a pilot of the Ready to Respond Campus program by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). The goal of the initiative is to enhance safety on college and university campuses.

“The Ready to Respond Campus program will recognize those institutions that meet rigorous standards for ensuring the safety of their students, staff and visitors,” said IEMA Director Jonathon Monken. “The Ready to Respond Campus designation will let current and prospective students and their parents know that safety is a top priority on the campus.”

HCC President Rob Widmer says the program recognizes schools that have been diligent about the safety and security of all people on their campuses.

“We were able to apply for this designation knowing that Heartland has many of its emergency protocols already in place. The College follows various state protocols for emergency drills and staff members are trained and well-positioned to respond appropriately in the event of an actual emergency,” Widmer said.

Schools participating in the pilot program include:

• Augustana College (Rock Island)
• Columbia College (Chicago)
• Heartland Community College (Normal)
• Parkland College (Champaign)
• Moraine Valley Community College (Palos Hills)
• Richland Community College (Decatur)
• Southeastern Illinois College (Harrisburg)
• Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)
• University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign)

To attain the Ready to Respond Campus designation, colleges must demonstrate compliance with standards for hazard identification, operational and violence prevention planning, incident management, training, exercises and crisis communications/public education. Careful documentation is an important element of compliance with the standards.

Institutions meeting the criteria will be designated a Ready to Respond Campus and can use the Ready Campus logo on official correspondence, websites, brochures and other media for three years. They will be able to renew their Ready to Respond Campus designation by submitting updated documentation at that time.

The program is endorsed by the Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (ICLEA) and supported by IEMA and the Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ) at the University of Illinois.

The College also held a Behavioral Threat Assessment Summit in November 2013. The statewide summit reviewed the correct procedures and protocols for assessing behavioral threats and offered guidance and techniques for safely intervening in situations that could become threatening or violent.

The College follows various state protocols for emergency drills and staff members are trained and well-positioned to respond appropriately in the event of an actual emergency,” Widmer said.
HCC Foundation Increases Capacity as College Advances First-Ever Gifts Campaign

At a kickoff event on the Normal campus in February 2014, the Heartland Community College Foundation campaign co-chairs Alan Chapman and Julie Dobski officially announced the “American Dreams: Local Results” initiative.

They shared the campaign’s $7.3 million goal that supporters feel is “absolutely achievable” given the College’s outstanding reputation for student success, innovative community partnerships and professionally recognized financial responsibility and stewardship. Chapman, a former Unit 5 School District superintendent, and Dobski, a distinguished community business owner and philanthropist, are both strong supporters of the College. Their commitment to student success and community growth motivated their involvement with the two-year campaign, which has four distinct goals:

1. To establish an endowed scholarship fund to support economically disadvantaged students, high school students planning to enroll in high-demand career programs and those who wish to accelerate degree completion by earning college credit while still in high school.

2. To create a “Pathways to Success” fund to support key components of Heartland GPS: Guided Path to Success—a recognized network of internal supports embedded throughout the College that provides essential onramps to higher education, a better life and the American Dream.

3. To develop a program growth fund to address the existing and emerging priorities of local businesses in need of immediate, skilled workers—specifically in the areas of allied health and healthcare, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), applied and information technologies and manufacturing.

4. To institute a Challenger Learning Center fund to provide additional opportunities for regional elementary school students to improve STEM proficiencies while developing lifelong skills in critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

Recent changes in the educational landscape make Heartland one of more than 1,200 American community colleges being asked to shoulder an even larger responsibility for the nation’s workforce training agenda. This includes helping 60% of Americans earn a degree, certificate or other vital credential by 2025.

“The ‘American Dreams: Local Results’ campaign will allow Heartland Community College to help our community achieve those national objectives through the success of our students,” said Rob Widmer, president of Heartland Community College. “We look forward to working with our many partners throughout the district to provide access and opportunities to those who can benefit from the programs and services at Heartland.”

HCC Students Win Red Cross Award

Twenty-one Heartland Community College students won the Red Cross Saluting Our Heroes Ambassador Award for spending their 2013 spring break assisting with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts in New Jersey.

“The selflessness of our heroes is amazing,” said Patrick Gavin, the Heartland chapter’s director of development. “The underlying message is their commitment to help others and to serve.”

“We have amazing students at Heartland who contribute their skills and services to society at every level,” said Rob Widmer, Heartland Community College president. “This is just another great example of the positive impact our students have on the world we share.”

Portions of this article courtesy of The Pantagraph.
The facility has served more than 60,000 individuals through children’s programs and corporate training. This year, the center offered a unique and diverse lineup of programs and events to celebrate its past, present and future impact on our communities. The highlight of the commemoration was “A Night of Discovery: Celebrating 10 Years at the CLC” held in February 2014. The evening included comments from NASA Astronaut Colonel Douglas H. Wheelock who spent more than 178 days aboard the international space station, conducted six spacewalks and earned global awards and international honors throughout his career. Wheelock also responded to an emergency shutdown of the space station’s external cooling system and was presented the American Red Cross 2010 Hero in Space Award for his efforts to restore the cooling system to full function.

Other programs and events this year included:

**Fly Your Sweetie to the Moon**
A romantic, Valentine-themed mission for couples

**FunnyRaiser**
A night of amateur comedy supporting the CLC scholarship fund

**Spring Break Sessions:**
- A Student’s Guide to the Solar System (for students in grades 1–6)
- Messy Matter Chemistry Challenge

**Rendezvous with a COMETdy: Wacky Space Adventure**

**Second Saturday Sessions:**
- Mars Madness (for students in grades 4 and up)
- Earth Day Mission (for students in grades 4 and up)
- Parent & Child Space Day

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**Heartland Saves $150,000 in Energy Costs**

HCC is a signatory of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), as well as a founding member of Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), a consortium of community colleges dedicated to growing Illinois’ green economy.

In partnership with Siemens Industry, Inc., HCC has continued its commitment to sustainability and renewable energy by erecting its own wind turbine. The turbine serves as an instructional resource while generating electricity for the college.

At full power, the 1.65 MW commercial turbine is capable of producing more than 4.3 million kWh of electricity each year, which meets approximately half of the College’s energy needs. This equated to a utility savings of about $150,000 in the first year. Annual savings of $380,000 are anticipated in future years. Since HCC is the first consumer of the turbine’s electricity, only excess energy leaves campus for the grid.

The College has also installed a variety of cost-saving devices across campus, including:
- Motion-activated light switches
- Low-energy lighting
- Water-conserving faucets and hand dryers
- A variable burner on the boiler
- Better external parking light controls

Individually, these changes may only have a small impact, but collectively they help HCC serve as a responsible steward of valuable resources and meet the intent of its commitments.

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Heartland Community College FY2013 Financial Report

### NET POSITION

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### REVENUES

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### OPERATING EXPENSES

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### NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

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### TOTAL REVENUES

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### TOTAL EXPENSES

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### HCC Demonstrates Financial Excellence

Heartland Community College continues to be recognized for its commitment to excellence in financial position and reporting. In May 2014, Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services continued their AA+/Stable long-term rating on the College’s June general obligation bond issue. The designation places the College’s general obligation bonds in the “high quality with very low credit risk” category, reflecting the strength of the regional economy and the College’s stable financial position.

For its 2012–13 financial statements, the College received an unqualified audit opinion—the most positive opinion an audit firm is able to issue. Heartland has received unqualified audit opinions since its founding in 1991.

The College has also earned the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 15 consecutive years with its annual publication of a comprehensive annual financial report.

The Heartland Community College Foundation is included and presented as a component unit as required by Governmental Accounting Board’s Statement No. 61.
Pregracke organizes community cleanups across the country through his nonprofit organization, Living Lands & Waters. About 70,000 volunteers have pitched in, helping Pregracke collect more than seven million pounds of trash in the past 15 years.

“The garbage got into the water one piece at a time,” Pregracke said earlier this year. “That’s the only way it’s going to come out.”

Pregracke was recognized along with the rest of this year’s top 10 CNN Heroes—everyday people doing extraordinary things to help change the world. He was chosen as Hero of the Year through a five-week public vote on CNN.com.

“I’ll just keep on cleaning up America’s rivers and loving every minute of it,” said Pregracke as he accepted the award.

For being named CNN Hero of the Year, Pregracke received $250,000 to continue his work. That’s in addition to the $50,000 each Hero receives for making the top 10.

Pregracke pledged some of his Hero of the Year money to the rest of the top 10 Heroes: “I’ve met so many great people today, the other Heroes, and I’m really moved by all their stories and all the things they do around the world ... I’m going to give 10 grand to each of them because they’re awesome.”

Pregracke, 38, grew up in East Moline, Illinois, where the Mississippi River was in his backyard. As a teenager, he worked as a commercial shell diver and began to notice the heaps of debris in the fabled waterway, which supplies drinking water to 18 million people in more than 50 U.S. cities.

“I saw thousands of barrels, thousands of tires, cars, trucks and tops of school buses. I got sick of seeing it and just wanted to do something about it,” said Pregracke, whom some have called “the river’s garbage man.”

For nine months out of the year, Pregracke lives on a barge with members of his 12-person crew. They go around the country with a fleet of boats and try to make cleanup fun for the volunteers who show up in each city. Skits, music, karaoke and mock motivational speeches are used to get volunteers amped up. Teams also compete to see who can find the “best” garbage.

“We do everything in our power to get people excited about it,” Pregracke said. “We want people to leave feeling good about what they did so they’ll come back.”

Close to 90% of what they recover is recycled. Pregracke said the rest gets disposed of properly. In addition to the river cleanup, Pregracke has launched a floating classroom barge where his staff educates high school students and teachers about the damages of pollution on river ecosystems. In 2007, his nonprofit implemented a program to plant one million trees along river shorelines to protect and restore the natural environment. The group is halfway to its goal.

Pregracke says his nonprofit has already held more than 700 cleanups on 23 rivers, but he says he’s just getting started.

“A lot of people call me a conservationist or an environmentalist, but the thing is I’m no different than anybody else,” he said. “I just want to be known (as) a hardworking American.”
Heartland Community College celebrated National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week in September. The College’s Adult Education Program annually serves about 1,000 students who lack basic literacy or language skills, including those in need of a GED® credential, English language improvement or workforce skills. Through state and federal grants, Heartland offers tuition-free classes to help these students attain their goals.

Adult Education at Heartland focuses on student success by:
- Finding innovative ways to support students as they reach their potential
- Valuing students with their unique backgrounds and individual strengths
- Believing everyone has the potential to succeed
- Committing to helping students find ways they can contribute to the community

Jacob Ngeno is one Adult Education student who has faced unique challenges and opportunities along his individual path. Enrolled in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, he represents the potential of over 20,000 others who live in our community.

Adult education works!

About four years ago, Ngeno, his wife and his two daughters came to the United States from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although both he and his wife had successful careers in the pharmacy field, they knew they needed to leave their home country so their daughters would have better opportunities. When they first arrived in the United States, they ran into many obstacles. Ngeno and his wife had little English speaking ability, so it was difficult to register their children for school or even answer the telephone. In spite of many challenges, they refused to give up. Ngeno enrolled in ESL classes at Heartland to improve his English. He was working as a janitor in a nursing home and knew that he needed to get into school to improve his work situation. He loved working in a pharmacy in the DRC and wanted to get back into the field.

Ngeno started in the Intermediate ESL class at Heartland. Coming to class every day and studying at home quickly moved him into the Academic English Language Program (AELP). In the AELP he also learned about the U.S. academic system and what he needed for success in an American college. Ngeno enrolled in the ESL Bridge to Health Careers program, where he prepared for a career in the healthcare industry by learning important vocabulary, work skills and culture. After completing the AELP and Bridge programs, he took a Pharmacy Technician class, passed the state exam, and is currently working in a pharmacy.

Ngeno did not stop there. He transitioned into college-level classes at Heartland as a step towards pursuing a degree in pharmacy. He applied for and received several scholarships, including the Presidential Scholarship, which is awarded for academic merit and given to only eight students per year.

It was an inspiring moment last year when Ngeno spoke on behalf of Adult Education students at the state capitol during the annual Adult Education Legislative Awareness Day.

Heartland offers tuition-free classes to help students attain their goals.

Did you know more than 15,000 adults in our community are in need of a GED certificate?

Did you know more than 11,000 adults in our community could benefit from English language training?

Adult Education and Family Literacy Initiatives
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“I am determined to provide a good life for my wife and three young daughters and appreciate all the support I’ve received at HCC.” —JACOB NGENO

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It’s amazing how much I love to come to class and I look forward to the experiences that are yet to come. HCC has given me so much more confidence in myself.” —Mary Lou Nelson
Heartland’s staff is very dedicated to making sure you have every opportunity to learn. They adapt to serve every student on an individual level.” —TINA MAIER
“This scholarship helps make my dream of being a nurse a reality.”
—PAIGE SWARTZ
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