Mineral Area College Foundation, Inc.

In 1983, a group of civic-minded citizens recognized the value Mineral Area College brings to our community: educationally, culturally and economically. The vision of these individuals created Mineral Area College Foundation, Inc. as a fund-raising appendage for Mineral Area College. For nearly two decades, the Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, has worked as a vehicle to enhance the college’s mission.

The Foundation’s mission is to advance, encourage, assist, promote and support the growth and development of Mineral Area College, its student body, faculty and administration. The activities and objectives of the Foundation shall include both ongoing and special projects and shall also include development and improvement of the college’s physical facilities.

Much of the Foundation’s work has been quietly accomplished. The Foundation exemplifies a symbiotic relationship among alumni, business and friends of the college to enrich college programs as well as the quality of life in our local communities.

The Mineral Area College Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors:

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Surviving Outside of the Fence

Zelda Martin
Cozean
Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 15, 2002
Mineral Area College
Community Center
7:00 p.m.
Dr. Kent A. Farnsworth has served as president of Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., since 1985. He has more than 25 years experience in higher education administration, including service as Dean of Students with the Eastern Iowa Community College District and Director of Admissions at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo. Before entering the education profession, he worked in production management for National Semiconductor Corporation in Santa Clara, CA, and spent five years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Farnsworth teaches World Religions in the Social Sciences Division at Crowder College.

His academic background represents a diverse blending of both public and private education, beginning with high school years spent in a parochial school in Tehran, Iran. Dr. Farnsworth holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University, master's degrees in International Relations from California State University-Sacramento and in Guidance and Counseling from Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo. His Ph.D. in Mass Communication is from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Farnsworth has received the National and Midwest Regional CEO Leadership Awards from the American Association of Community College Trustees, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Community College Association. He has served as Chair of the Missouri Humanities Council Board of Directors and is active in the local Chamber of Commerce and civic organizations. In 1988, he was named one of "America's Transformational Leaders in Higher Education" by the League for Innovation, and was selected as the "Citizen of the Year" for the community of Neosho in 2000. He has served on the board of the American Association of Community Colleges and as Chair of the Presidents' and Chancellors' Advisory Committee to the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Dr. Farnsworth's interests in international relations and comparative religion have taken him to all parts of the world. In addition to his teen years in Iran, he lived for several years in England during his undergraduate years. In 1987, he was a member of a solar car racing team that participated in the first World Solar Challenge, placing fifth in a run from Darwin to Adelaide across the outback of Australia. He spent the summer of 1994 as a Fulbright-Hays Fellow in Pakistan, and in 1996 was one of 13 educators awarded a Malone Fellowship for study in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He directed a student exchange group to South Central Russia in 1997 and in 2001 served as an advisor to the Government of Thailand, in its efforts to develop a community college system for the country.

He and his family live on a small farm outside the city of Neosho, Mo.