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NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Mildred Sasser Robbins Values SCC

Mildred Sasser Robbins grew up in a Columbus County that didn't offer an option for higher education. Born in 1913 to Albert and Mortie Sasser, Mildred, one of seven children, grew up in rural Hallsboro with a strong desire to learn more about history, art and other disciplines. This love of education and great appreciation of Southeastern Community College, prompted her to make a large donation recently to the SCC Foundation in memory of her late husband, Earl Robbins. Mr. Robbins, a farmer in the New Hope area, passed away in 1997 and Mildred, a long time employee of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, is currently a resident of Scotia Village Retirement Community in Laurinburg.

"This gift to the SCC Foundation is very important and will allow the Foundation to continue programs that enable student success at SCC," stated Sue Hawks, Executive Dean of Institutional Advancement. "Mrs. Robbins has seen SCC grow and enrich the citizenry of Columbus County and she chooses to support our efforts with this gift. On September 6, Mrs. Robbins will turn 96. I can only imagine the advancements in education and technology she has witnessed thanks to SCC and the students who have been helped through the SCC Foundation," Mrs. Hawks said.

When Mildred heard of the movement to study the feasibility of establishing a community college in the area, she was excited. In April of 1963, Dr. Jesse Fisher was appointed by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners as chair of a Community College Committee whose membership included Shay Smith, Sam Koonce, Martin Lowe, Martin Schulken, Flora Singletary, Tom Clayton, Mrs. W. B. Ward and Jack Council, Jr. A group of 100 county citizens joined the committee in an advisory role. "I remember there was a door-to-door survey which resulted in over 2000 signatures being sent to the State Board of Education which led to a charter for Southeastern Community College in 1964," Mildred recalled, "it was a very exciting time for our county. I have always held SCC in high esteem and can't imagine Columbus County without SCC," she continued.

Mildred and many of her relatives have taken full advantage of the many educational opportunities that the college offers. Having a love for art, Mildred enrolled in painting processes classes for three quarters and took art through continuing education as well. "I drew landscapes and I remember a mountain scene I painted under the instruction of Christa Balogh," Mildred reminisced. "In the spring of 1978, I enrolled in a genealogy class and learned the process of tracing my ancestry on both the Sasser and Robbins side. It was a most interesting course of study. I regret that as a young girl I didn't have SCC at my back door and I hope that the citizens of Columbus County realize how fortunate we are to have Southeastern Community College in our county."

Mildred currently has ties to SCC through her nephew Rhone Sasser, who served as Board of Trustee chair from 2000 to 2008 and currently remains as a college Trustee and a Foundation Board director. Clay Haygood, Mildred's great-great nephew, is a Basic Law Enforcement (BLET) instructor at SCC. Many of her nieces, nephews, and now great nieces and nephews have launched successful careers thanks to receiving their education at SCC.

"Donating to the SCC Foundation is one of the best investments I can make," Mrs. Robbins said, "I have always wanted to ensure the success of SCC."

Opportunities that facilitate the education of SCC students, including grants, scholarships, honorariums, memorial and unrestricted gifts are encouraged. Gifts may be made to the SCC Foundation by contacting Sue W. Hawks at 910-642-7141, extension 320 or by mail to P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, NC 28472. Visit the Foundation web page at www.sccnc.edu. Visa and MasterCard are gladly accepted.