

Driven by Landmark's Mission: New Board Chair Charles Manley Envisions Great Things For Landmark

By Mary Kukovich

The first thing you notice about Charles Manley is the way he listens with great care and intent. The second thing you notice is that when he speaks — which is not often — his comments are insightful and precise.

That talent will serve Mr. Manley well in his new role as Chairman of Landmark College's Board of Trustees, which he assumed in November 2006. Like many board members, his relationship with Landmark began when his daughter, Julia, enrolled as a student. After graduating from Landmark in 1996, she went on to Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, to complete her baccalaureate degree in education and now teaches kindergarten.

"My wife and I convinced Julia to attend Landmark's summer program. It was a huge adjustment for her, being separated from her family and friends back in Texas. However, at the end of program, she told us: 'This is where I need to be. For the first time in my life, I feel like I can learn in a new way.' It was an incredibly brave thing for her to do and we'll always be grateful to Landmark. What she learned here will sustain her throughout her life."

Mr. Manley joined the College's Board two years ago, though Landmark had tried several times to involve him even sooner. "With my job demands, I knew I couldn't commit the kind of time needed to do the job well," he said. However, upon retiring in 2005 as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, one of the world's largest independent oil and gas exploration companies, he was ready to sign on.

"Based on our family's experiences and those of others, I knew firsthand the tremendous impact Landmark can have on its students. There was never any doubt in my mind of the value of Landmark's mission; when I retired, I finally had the time to get involved the way I wanted to," he said. As Board Chair, he believes his primary task is to assure Landmark's long-term financial stability. "We are a young college, so we lack the level of endowment other institutions have to develop new programs, fund scholarships and reduce dependence on tuition." Key to achieving that goal will be to continue to expand the Board "with a full cadre of individuals who are willing to devote their efforts and commitment to Landmark's vision."

Today's Board is largely comprised of individuals who are grateful parents of current and former Landmark students. "We're making terrific progress with the added perspective new Board members like Dr. Tom Brown from Yale bring to the table," he said. "Ultimately, though, I hope many successful alumni of the College will form the majority of our Board. They know and understand the power of Landmark better than anyone else."

To help achieve that goal, the College recently held the first meeting of its President's Alumni Advisory Board. "Seven very successful Landmark graduates attended that meeting," Mr. Manley said. "We were greatly impressed by their energy and enthusiasm — and we're looking forward to their insights and ideas."

Mr. Manley also sees opportunity in further developing the Landmark College Institute for Research & Training (LCIRT). "I would like to see the Institute realize its full poten-



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tial, because it plays an essential role in our ability to reach out beyond Putney to the rest of the world," he said. "There's a tremendous demand throughout the country and the world for help in teaching students with learning differences. We hope that Landmark will be at the front and center of this effort."

Mr. Manley states that it is Landmark's students, faculty and staff members who ultimately hold the key to Landmark's future. "The degree of dedication at the College is unlike any I've ever seen. Landmark really is a place that changes the lives of the students who attend its programs and their families. We have set tall goals to help sustain and grow the College's work, but I believe that we have the collective will and the people in place to make it all happen."