

PIGMANS ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR HCHS PRE-ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS

L. Stanley and Karen Pigman are no strangers to engineering students from Eastern Kentucky who have attended the University of Kentucky or those who have participated in Project Lead the Way at Harlan County High School over the past four years.

The Pigmans have a new commitment to helping students from Harlan County High School who pursue engineering and computer science degrees at UK as early as next fall.

Mr. Pigman announced this week a multiple element plan to assist students not only in preparing for the UK engineering program by continuing and growing the PLTW at HCHS, but also through tremendous financial assistance in funding postsecondary education for PLTW students.

Multiple resources will be available to students when they arrive on UK's main campus to begin their postsecondary experience and to assist them in ensuring success, he said.

Superintendent Brent Roark said he is "extremely pleased by the generosity and dedication Mr. L. Stanley and Karen Pigman are showing toward Harlan County High School and its students. The opportunities are tremendous."

The Pigmans funded the implementation of the pre-engineering PLTW program at HCHS four years ago. He has agreed to expand the program for a fourth year of instruction at HCHS, providing additional preparatory activities for those planning to pursue engineering and computer science degrees at UK.

Three students will become Pigman Scholars when they graduate at HCHS this spring. The number of scholars will grow in future years and will include students who complete four years of Project Lead the Way and score a 27 in math and a 28 composite on the ACT.

Pigman says he is committed to providing the unmet financial needs of the HC students who participate in the program and attend UK in the programs.

He said amounts range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year. He said scholarships will be renewed each year, providing recipients demonstrate success. One requirement will be for the students to live the first two



years in the Engineering Living and Learning Community on campus. Special resources will be available to them through tutoring and other initiatives all designed to help them be successful.

The program will also encourage students to earn their MBA and fund an opportunity to study abroad.

In addition, the students will commit to utilizing mentoring opportunities provided by the Pigmans. These will include the Pigmans, and Kyle and Deepmala Hogue. Kyle Hogue is a graduate of Harlan County High School. He and his wife are successful engineers.

Additional mentors will be announced, Pigman said.

Pigman said the mentors “are immersed” in the engineering program and will offer students guidance and assistance in their college experience.

Also, a counselor from the UK College of Engineering will work with area high schools to target and guide students interested in engineering and computer science degrees.

Pigman currently serves on the college of engineering advisory board. He has received distinguished honors from the college of engineering, the university and the alumni association. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the college of engineering.

Pigman said summer opportunities will be available on the UK campus for Harlan County middle and high school students to gain insight and to prepare for their postsecondary experience. He said these opportunities will include hands-on learning in the engineering programs and also provide experiences for learning the campus. He said UK can be intimidating to some from rural areas, but emphasized the college of engineering is like a small campus within a large setting.

Pigman said on campus workshops will help to build the confidence of students, as well as their parents or guardians.

Students should learn more about engineering prerequisites and work to take some college classes locally during the summer or in the evenings. One suggested class that would be beneficial is calculus.

He cautioned that students interested in attending UK in engineering should be aware that dual credit college hours most likely will not transfer from high school to the engineering college, depending on the program one plans to pursue.

Pigman said dual credit is a wonderful program for some students, but noted that the engineering programs are much more restrictive than other colleges on the UK campus due to the depth of study necessary to be successful.

Pigman said the workshops are designed help to build confidences of the students and their parents and show that the university is not as large as they might fear. Most of the studies will take place at or near the college of engineering, located on the main, central campus.

Students should learn more about engineering prerequisites and work to take some college classes locally during the summer or in the evenings. One suggested class that would be beneficial is Calculus.

To learn more about Pigman and his commitment to the University of Kentucky and to assisting students pursue their dreams of engineering careers, visit: <https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/stanley-pigman-%E2%80%94-seeing-blue-and-making-difference>.