

## Bernhardts to lead CCC&TI Foundation Drive

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Known best for leadership in the furniture industry and local philanthropy, Anne Bernhardt and Alex Bernhardt, Sr. are now lending their leadership to this year's 2013 Annual Fund Drive of the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. The Bernhardts, long-time supporters of CCC&TI and its Foundation, will be introduced as Co-Chairs of the Annual Fund Drive at the kickoff celebration on Wednesday, March 6. Alex Bernhardt, Sr. serves as Chairman of the Board for Bernhardt Furniture and Anne Bernhardt serves as Vice Chairwoman.

"We are so fortunate to have the Bernhardts' expertise in helping us lead this year's fund drive," said Marla Christie, executive director of the Foundation of CCC&TI. "Their generosity and support of the college and the Foundation over the years has been invaluable to us. We look forward to another successful campaign."

From personal experience through hiring CCC&TI graduates and workforce development efforts over the nearly 50-year history of the institution, the Bernhardts are aware of the many ways CCC&TI impacts lives in Caldwell and Watauga counties. Anne Bernhardt also attended CCC&TI as a part-time student at one time and still remembers the quality of instruction.

"I've always thought of an education as something that can never be taken away from you," Anne Bernhardt said, adding that supporting the Foundation helps local residents to pursue a brighter future. "Without the college, I think we'd be adrift."

Specifically, the Bernhardts have praised the various scholarships and other resources provided by the Foundation, such as child care and emergency assistance.

"The Foundation is the best vehicle through which to support all the work of the college," Alex Bernhardt said. "The work of the Foundation is impressive in that it provides for so many needs for the students."

The Foundation of CCC&TI is a nonprofit organization, incorporated in 1970, to support the college and its students. Funds go toward a variety of scholarships, as well as student aid such as child care, emergency assistance, counseling, academic support and work-study opportunities.

For more information about the Foundation of CCC&TI and the 2013 Annual Fund Drive, please call Executive Director Marla Christie at 726-2203.