

JCJC names building in honor of former Board of Trustees Chairman, Mike McClellan

Written By: Teresa McCreery

ELLISVILLE-Fifty-three years ago when Jasper County native, Mike McClellan landed on the campus of Jones County Junior College, he never dreamed the impact the Ellisville campus would have on him, and he on JCJC. During Homecoming festivities, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially name one of the buildings on campus after McClellan.

“Having a building named after you is truly humbling. It’s basically not because of what I did. I have a lot of people really supporting me; faculty, staff, the football team. They did all the work and I got all the praise,” said McClellan at the ceremony. “I was really shocked. When you think about some of the buildings on campus and the men they are named after, who are well known professionally, well, I don’t feel like I belong in that category with people like Buck Anderson (JCJC alumnus and donor), Dr. Terrell Tisdale and Dr. Ron Whitehead (former JCJC Presidents) to name a few.”



JCJC President, Dr. Jesse Smith said McClellan is very deserving of such an honor because he was such a great leader and patriarch of JCJC.

“He’s in the JCJC Bobcat Sports Hall of Fame and the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of fame, he’s an outstanding man in the community, he was on our Board of Trustees for 25 years and the board chairman for several years. His best quality is leadership. He does it with ease and calm, and he is able to create a consensus. This is perfect for him,” said Dr. Smith.

Current JCJC Board of Trustees Chairman, David Garner shared, “Mike McClellan is a man who stands above all of us but yet he would kneel to serve us all and let us learn from his example that life is not about what we receive, it’s about what we give....Little did he know in the fall of 1962 when he took his first steps on the JCJC campus that his life would hold true to what someone once said, ‘Work in silence and let your success be loud.’ Today, Mike, your success is screaming.”

The list of McClellan’s accomplishments is long, including being named one of three, 2015 JCJC Honor Alumni. Also, after getting an invitation to play football for Coach Sim Cooley, McClellan was the Bobcats’ quarterback and was named the Most Valuable Back in the Conference, he was named to All-State, All-Region and JC Grid-Wire All-American teams, continued his athletic career at USM, where he held the record for the lowest percentage of interceptions for over 100 passes, and he lettered in football and baseball. McClellan went on to teach, coach and work in pharmaceutical sales before beginning his 38-year relationship with Magnolia State Bank as president and branch manager in Heidelberg. He served on the JCJC Board of Trustees for 25 years with six of those years as board

chairman. Dr. Whitehead also asked McClellan to serve as President of the State Board of Trustees for Mississippi's 15 community and junior colleges. Even his employer, Magnolia State Bank established and endowed a scholarship in his honor through the JCJC Foundation in honor of his many contributions to the college and the business community.

McClellan humbly explained to the audience, "My parents told me, when I was assigned a job to do it to the best of my abilities and make sure it's fair and equitable for everyone concerned. That's the way I try to do all my banking and community business. It's an honor for me today and I'm truly blessed to receive this and to be able to thank all of the people who helped me to get on the proper path."

McClellan Hall will be one of the first buildings prospective students will see because the recruiting and marketing offices, along with the Journalism department are located in the remodeled building. The building was originally constructed in 1948 from Army surplus materials and was used for barrack-style housing, offices and storage for the National Guard units. It was also used for vocational programs, visiting athletic team locker rooms, the maintenance department and the math department classrooms. The 10-month project cost \$1.5 million in bond funds to provide 21-offices, two-conference rooms, a media room and a studio lab for the newspaper and yearbook staffs. The 14,857 square-foot building features an all new energy efficient heating and air conditioning with Mitsubishi's Citi-Multi system and energy efficient LED lighting throughout the building.

With McClellan's family, including his wife of 52 years, Margie and their two children, Scotty and Suzanne and four grandchildren at his side, the JCJC Foundation gave McClellan a specially made wooden chair as a token of the college's appreciation for all of his service to the college and community.



L to R: Grandad Michael "Mike" McClellan, Michael Owen Markel (Age 4), "Trip" James A. Markel III (Age 14), Henry McClellan Markel (Age 7) and Michael Logan McClellan (Age 4)

