



**Cape Cod
Community College
Educational
Foundation, Inc.**



National Endowment for the Humanities Awards Major Challenge Grant to College's Nickerson Archives Campaign

West Barnstable, Mass.—December 21, 2009—Cape Cod Community College through its Educational Foundation is the recipient of a \$170,000 matching grant made by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the fourth largest among 21 recently awarded to Massachusetts institutions and scholars, and the only grant made in this series to a community college in the Commonwealth. The prestigious award will be applied to the \$1,000,000 campaign now underway to expand and renovate the College's W.B. Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives.

The NEH Challenge Grant, funded as a We the People project, is contingent on the College Foundation matching the award with two institutional dollars for each NEH dollar received. The Educational Foundation has already raised a large part of the required match, with approximately \$100,000 remaining to reach both the required NEH match and overall campaign goal.

We the People is an NEH program designed to encourage and enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and democratic principles. A portion of the grant will establish a Nickerson Archives Endowment for specialized program and staffing.

Speaking about the grants just made, NEH Chairman Jim Leach noted, "From small awards which enable institutions to better preserve and conserve their collections, to larger matching offers that assist organizations with capital improvements, NEH funding supports humanities scholarship and a variety of projects."

The Nickerson Archives, located in the College's Wilkens Library, represent a virtual treasure trove of 10,000 books, and rare manuscripts, maps, ships' logs, diaries, and other special collections, dating as far back as the 1600s. The Archive renovation and expansion plan will relocate and enlarge the facility almost three-fold to accommodate current collections and projected growth, meet archival facilities standards, digitize key documents, and expand research and reading space with state-of-the-art audio-visual teaching technology. Research services are free and available to the general public and college community.

More about the William Brewster Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives & Campaign

The Nickerson Archives are named in memory of William Brewster “Bruce” Nickerson, a young Naval Air Force Lieutenant killed in Vietnam on April 22, 1966 flying in the South China Sea. Nickerson and his father, the late E. Carleton Nickerson who served as President of Cape Cod Community College from 1964 to 1972, were direct descendants of Elder William Brewster who came to Cape Cod on the Mayflower in 1620. In tribute to the President’s son, the students and staff of the College dedicated the William Brewster Nickerson Archives in 1971.

To date, more than 500 donors have stepped forward to support the \$1,000,000 Nickerson Archives Campaign chaired by Joshua “Jan” A. Nickerson, Jr. Supporters of the campaign are representative of a cross-section of Cape Cod and Islands, including lead gifts from the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Trust, the Wilkens Family Trust, and other generous foundations and corporations, members of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society, College employees and retirees, and old and new friends of the College Foundation. Among new friends are the many buyers of the 1858 Map of Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket book published by the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank and OnCape Publications to benefit the Archives.

Naming opportunities for the Nickerson Archives Campaign begin at \$2,500; however, all gifts are welcome toward the NEH matching grant challenge. The Nickerson Archives are open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the Nickerson Archives Campaign and Archives, please contact Gerry Desautels in the Cape Cod Community College Educational Foundation office at 508-362-2131, ext. 4439 or gdes@capecod.edu. Campaign donations may be made online at www.ccccfoundation.org or sent to CCCC Educational Foundation, 2240 Iyannough Rd., West Barnstable, MA 02668.

More about the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge, and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, exhibitions, and programs in libraries, museums, and other community places. Through We the People projects, NEH is leading a renaissance in knowledge about American history and principles. Grants awarded through the We the People program have leveraged approximately \$18 million in third-party funds for projects on American history and culture. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov.