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Seward County Community College/Area Technical School Development Foundation Director Tammy Doll holds a fall silk wreath donated by Linda's Flowers & Gifts that will be up for bid during the foundation's party auction Saturday evening in the Activity Center. L&T photo/Robert Pierce

By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

Liberal officially became a city in 1888. About 80 years later, the community welcomed a college to its landscape.

As part of its 19th annual Party Auction this Saturday, the development foundation of what is now known as Seward County Community College/Area Technical School will be helping

celebrate the 125 years of Liberal.

The theme for this year's event is "Party like it's 1888," and along with silent and live auctions, other activities will take place throughout the night.

"We'll have our 50/50 drawing and lucky draw," said development foundation director Tammy Doll. "We will have a photo booth at the auction. That'll be available for guests to use to take pictures. That's something new."

Some of the bigger auction items for this year include a white gold and diamond pendant from Staats Jewelers, a three-night condo stay in Las Vegas, a House of Blues VIP experience from First National Bank, a four-night stay in Winter Park, Colo., and a Hearts on Fire "Reflection" pendant from Collins Diamonds.



Doll said there are many other items up for bid during the night at the Seward County Activity Center.

The silent auction starts at 6 p.m., and a meal catered by Billy's Mexican Grill & Q will be served from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meal will feature a buffet of pulled pork donated by Seaboard Farms and brisket donated by National Beef.

Tickets are still available through today for \$30 at SCCC/ATS.

"You have to have a ticket to get in the door," Doll said.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

The live auction will start at 8 p.m., and child care will be provided by the Saints Cheer and Dance Squad for \$5 per child ages 3 to 11. Call 620-417-1652 for reservations.

Doll said the party auction is the development foundation's most visible activity.

"It doesn't raise the most money, but last year, we raised \$50,000," she said. "I'm hoping to do at least that well this year. We also have a phone-a-thon in the spring and then send out letters for our annual drive. We have a lot of different opportunities for people to give to the foundation, but this is the one big event that's public."

Doll said the development foundation gives out about half a million dollars in scholarships each year.

"A lot of that comes from our endowed funds, where donors will set up a restricted account," she said. "We invest that money, and we only use the income from those funds. That money, along with what we raise during the year, is what we use for scholarships."

Doll said she sees the development foundation continuing to provide financial aid to SCCC/ATS students for some time.

"As long as the investment market does well, we like that because that helps out with providing more income for scholarships," she said.

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