

James Symmonds

1993

Although his tenure as interim president for Linn State Technical College was only a few short months, James Symmonds spent over 28 years devoted to advancing the college.

In 1965, Symmonds was hired as a Communications/English instructor. Throughout his many years with the college, Symmonds held a variety of titles which included Director of Public Relations, Assistant to the President, Director of Special Services, Vice President of Development, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and eventually interim president of the college.

As the Director of Public Relations, Symmonds wrote and produced advertisements that proved to be very successful in attracting students to the college. One of his most successful ventures was a thirty second television advertisement for the college featuring William Shatner of Star Trek.

In 1983, Symmonds was instrumental in starting the Foundation for Linn State Technical College. In his role as the foundation's executive director, Symmonds actively sought after private funding for the advancement of the college. The private funding for the McDonnell Douglas Green Aviation facility was among his successful fundraising efforts.

In 2007, Symmonds was awarded the Thurman L. Willett Leadership award by the Foundation for Linn State Technical College. Symmonds humbly accepted the award stating that accomplishments are rarely individual events. "I was privileged to work with an incredible group of bright, dedicated, visionary men and women who worked to fulfill Mr. Willett's vision," he said.

Symmonds was truly honored to accept the award that bears Mr. Willett's name. "He was a man of great vision and leadership," commented Symmonds. "His special gift was his ability to make other people share his vision."

"It is a source of great pleasure to know that under the leadership of my predecessor, Dr. Donald Claycomb, Mr. Willett's vision is being fulfilled and strengthened each year," said Symmonds.