Largest Gift in SouthArk History


**Kent:** South Arkansas Community College has received its largest philanthropic gift ever from a single donor, nearly a quarter million dollars. The college was notified last month that it was one of 40 non-profits in Arkansas to receive part of an $11 million dollar bequest from Norris Cunningham Taylor, Jr. He was a Fort Smith accountant who died last fall at age 84.

**Reyna:** "It’s very, very unusual for a nonprofit organization to receive an unrestricted gift."

**Kent:** Cynthia Reyna is SouthArk's institutional development director. She says she was shocked and humbled to learn of such a gift to the college.

**Reyna:** "Then add to that we did not know him and he did not know any of us personally."

**Kent:** College president Barbara Jones says Taylor’s will included gifts to universities, libraries and health-related organizations. Since he was an accountant, she says, she hopes the college's financial documents helped him in his decision to give to SouthArk.

**Jones:** "We can only conjecture that he also looked at the financial statements being a CPA, wanting to make sure they were fiscally sound, and such."

**Kent:** Reyna says the college had recently started to focus on planned giving, that is, for people to name them in their wills. And this gift, she says, is a good start.

**Reyna:** "We know we do good things, but when someone acknowledges they know we do good things it just makes our work more fulfilling to me."

**Kent:** Jones says the college trustees and foundation will meet in the coming weeks to decide how the endowment will be used.