

\$1.2 Million Gift Establishes Grant Price Endowed Archivist at Wartburg College

A \$1.2 million gift from David McCartney and James Petersen of Iowa City has created a new position at Wartburg College, the Grant Price Endowed Archivist.

The Grant Price Endowed Archivist position is named for the pioneering Iowa broadcast journalist and former chair of the college's communication arts department. It is the college's twenty-first endowed faculty or staff position and the eighth in the past decade. The college seeks to fill this role in 2021.

In 1994, the Wartburg College library saw an expansion of the Wartburg Archives and addition of the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting (AIB), initiated by Price. After his death in 2008, Price gifted his estate to establish both a chair in communication arts at Wartburg College, now the Grant L. Price Chair in Journalism & Communication held by Penni Pier, and an endowment to support the AIB.

"Following Grant's passing, we as a board worked with the development team at Wartburg College establishing the endowment funding that Grant had envisioned," said McCartney, a founding member of the AIB in 2004 and chair of its National Advisory Board since 2012.



James Petersen (left) and David McCartney (right)

Other donors have made gifts to this fund that provides the AIB with modest support for its operational costs, but the lack of a full-time archivist remained a compelling need.

The Wartburg Archives includes photographs, diaries, and letters that tell the Wartburg College story, along with organized records that inform the college's decisions today. The AIB collection contains an oral history project comprising hundreds of interviews that capture first-person experiences of Iowa's broadcast pioneers, along with documentation from a variety of media outlets and vintage broadcasting equipment.

"I think Grant's legacy in Iowa broadcast journalism is, without question, a very positive and lasting legacy that, long after Grant's passing, we continue to recognize as really exemplary of what a good reporter does," said McCartney, university archivist at the University of Iowa. "The values that Grant represented in terms of fairness and ethics are very important to remember. Our hope is that this endowed position will allow Wartburg and the larger community to continue to recognize that."

Price was a pioneer of broadcast journalism and a household name in eastern Iowa. McCartney met Price for the first time in 1992 while collaborating on a project documenting the history of Iowa. Price then asked McCartney to assist in the foundation of the Wartburg Archives and Archives of Iowa Broadcasting.

Price later received the 2008 Midwest Archives Conference Presidents' Award, nominated by McCartney, and wrote in his acceptance letter: "I can only say I am deeply honored to receive your organization's recognition of our modest efforts to support the principle your profession stands for—the importance of preserving the historical record of the events and institutions which have shaped our culture."

McCartney and Petersen received title to Floyd County land in early 2020 following McCartney's mother's decision to dissolve the family's trust. The land transfer in turn made possible their gift to Wartburg.