In 2011, businessman, scholar, philanthropist and northwest Pennsylvania native William S. Dietrich II bequeathed a $25 million fund to the institution. Bill Dietrich’s gift is the largest made to the College in its 145-year history. The first use of this generous gift is the Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Institute, which is named for his parents who met at Thiel College as students in the 1920s and who nurtured Bill’s passion for learning and love of knowledge. You will receive a Dietrich Honors Institute medallion when you graduate in the inaugural class of Dietrich Scholars in 2017. Other perks of being a Dietrich Scholar include early course registration and a special $1,000 per year honors scholarship.

Vision
At the end of its four-year developmental phase, the Dietrich Honors Institute will include 250 diversely gifted Dietrich Scholars whose lives will be enriched by giving to and receiving from a learning community filled with passionate and purposeful people.

Mission
The Dietrich Honors Institute endeavors to help students become full human beings whose breadth of knowledge, strength of character and thoughtfulness of action make them natural leaders in the world. The DHI curriculum is designed to inform through the acquisition of knowledge, to form through the building of character and to transform through engagement in service to the larger world.

Academic Criteria
To be eligible for enrollment in the Dietrich Honors Institute students must have a 3.5 GPA and one of the following: 1100 SAT (CR + M), 24 ACT (comp.) or placement in the top 15% of his/her high school class. Those who are close to meeting these requirements may receive special consideration by writing a brief statement indicating their interest and why they would be a good fit in the DHI.

About the DHI

DHI Courses: 2013-2014

Four DHI courses will be taught in your first year. During fall semester, Honors students will take two DHI courses: “Becoming Human: Love, Power, Justice,” an ethics course that will also introduce students to college life and the DHI, and “Communicating Effectively: Grammar, Dialectic (or Logic), Rhetoric,” concentrating on written communication. In the spring semester, there will be two DHI courses: “Creating Culture: Ancient, Medieval, Modern,” which will be a history of western humanities course, and “Interpreting Scriptures: Jewish, Christian, Islamic,” a study of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qur’an.

For more information about the Dietrich Honors Institute, please contact:
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724-589-2106
Lisa M. Walton, Esq., Assistant Director
724-589-2074
dhi@thiel.edu • www.thiel.edu/honors

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TOP 10 REASONS WHY you should be a part of the DHI

1. ACADEMIC CULTURE—As you join the Dietrich Honors Institute (DHI), you will be taking part in a strong intellectual community. The particular CONTRIBUTIONS YOU MAKE will strengthen that culture even further.

2. GIFTS GALORE—As you come into the Institute as scholars, musicians, scientists, writers, artists and more, you will experience the reciprocal excellence that comes in GIVING AND RECEIVING SPECIAL GIFTS.

3. POTENTIAL LEADERS—Modules on leadership and leadership opportunities in DHI courses, as well as in campus organizations, will NURTURE YOU AS A LEADER in the world.

4. PLENTEOUS PASSION—Passion is to a community what salt is to food. Experiencing your peers’ PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF THE POSSIBLE will spice up your life.

5. INITIATIVE TAKERS—The DHI will encourage you to be independent, motivated and creative in bringing good ideas into being. DYNAMIC CREATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS.

6. ADVENTUROUS SOULS—Dietrich Scholars will continue GIVING EXPRESSION TO THEIR ADVENTUROUS SPIRITS. Educational field trips, fascinating study abroad experiences and exciting research opportunities will be occasions for you to advance life’s adventure.

7. FUN FACTORY—You will have a good time—even fun—in your endeavors as a DHI Scholar. Your great education will be marked by a HEALTHY BALANCE OF EARNESTNESS (seriousness, rigor, tending to business) AND JEST (celebration, enjoyable activities, camaraderie).

8. FACULTY ENRICHMENT—Dietrich Scholars will enrich our faculty—a number of whom will SPREAD THEIR WINGS IN TEACHING YOU NEXT YEAR. They are eager to embrace the challenge of learning right along with you.

9. NEW CREATION—Building on the strong Honors Program of the past three decades, the DHI’s establishment carries with it the spirited VISION OF CREATING A UNIQUE HONORS INSTITUTE in higher education. We hope you’ll come and share our excitement.

10. BEAUTIFUL TRADITION—The DHI is just now emerging into reality, and as it grows its tradition will develop. Graduates of the first class of DHI Scholars in 2017 will be able to take pride in having helped SHAPE A BEAUTIFUL TRADITION.

“Honors and...” Program

The Dietrich Honors Institute encourages our scholars to embrace the “and.” In the DHI, we’ll support your desire to be a Dietrich Scholar and... an athlete...Thiel Player... editor of the Thielensian...sorority or fraternity member...Student Government Association representative...the possibilities are endless! Being involved broadens your education, so go for it!

Symposium for Excellence

A weekly gathering of DHI Scholars, the Symposium is your chance to socialize with your fellow scholars and a FoDHI (Friend of DHI) or two as well. You can ask questions about what you’re learning in class or talk about what’s going on in your life with DHI staff and upper-level scholars. It’s a great opportunity to get to know others in a relaxed setting.

Conversing About Big Ideas

Education doesn’t take place just in a classroom. DHI Scholars have the option of living in Hodge Hall with other DHI participants. The big ideas you discuss in your seminar-style classes can spill over to your dorm room or lounge! Great conversation about those big ideas can happen anywhere as the quest for truth becomes a personal journey.