

RMC'S BLACK TIE BLUE JEANS: A CHAMPIONSHIP SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

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BILLINGS -- The 22nd annual Rocky Mountain College Black Tie Blue Jeans Scholarship Benefit was a championship benefit befitting its theme this year.

The benefit, held Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, sold out, and, coupled with the silent and live auctions and Dollars for Scholars donations, raised more than \$330,000 for student scholarships.

The theme for this year's benefit was "Champions" and the theme celebrated the Battlin' Bears men's basketball team national championship, but also other champions among students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

"People proved our theme was a good one, because we had so many people come forward to help and to donate for our student scholarships," said RMC President Michael Mace.

According to Mace the expectation was to raise \$250,000, given the uncertain economic times.

"Our staff, the volunteers, all the students who helped, the donors and table sponsors -- everyone did a phenomenal job," he said. "We are blessed by their generosity and goodwill."

This year, Rick and Nicki Larson were BTBJ Honorary Chairs. The Larsons, who co-founded Employee Benefit Management Services (EBMS), Inc., in 1980, have been pioneers in the health insurance industry and leaders in the community, with a history of supporting RMC. They are also parents of two RMC alumni.

The Midlife Chryslers provided music.

Auction items -- including fine art, vacation getaways, NFL tickets,

jewelry, gourmet dinners, and a chance to be an extra in a Hollywood film -- surpassed previous years for the sold-out benefit.

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