

After Generous Gift, Roadrunners to Play in '1st Source Bank Fieldhouse'

1st Source Foundation provides donation to help fund more opportunities for student-athletes at Southwestern Michigan College

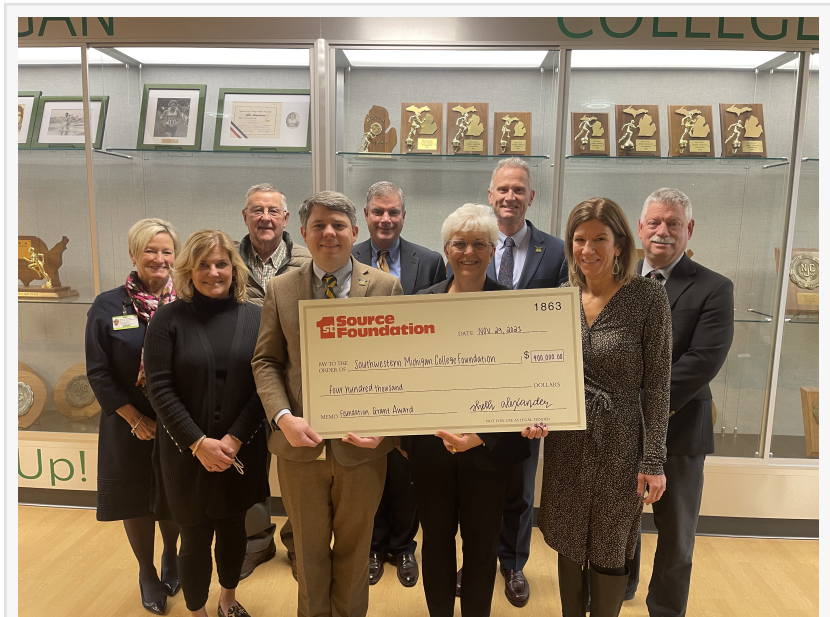
SOUTH BEND, IN, UNITED STATES, December 2, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) and 1st Source Bank announced today that with a major gift from the 1st Source Foundation, the remodeled athletic facility in the Charles O. Zollar Building on the Dowagiac, Michigan campus will be named "1st Source Bank Fieldhouse".

In addition to the return of nationally-ranked cross country teams to competition this fall, the SMC Board of Trustees in May authorized the return of NJCAA men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball and men's wrestling for Fall 2022. The college will also create a pep band and a women's competitive dance team. In order to modernize existing facilities and create a home court for the Roadrunners, a major renovation project began in October.

“

It will help provide amazing opportunities for over 100 student-athletes per year to continue the activities they love and to compete for championships while preparing for meaningful careers. ”

Dr. Joe Odenwald



Members of SMC administration and 1st Source Bank management display the ceremonial donation check.

“We are excited to revive our athletics program as part of providing an affordable total college life experience for our students,” said Thomas F. Jerdon, Board Chairman. “1st Source Foundation’s gift will be transformational for SMC, and it is a marquee example of local organizations and businesses getting behind this growth opportunity.”

“We are humbled and grateful for this generous gift from 1st Source Foundation,” said Dr. Joe Odenwald, SMC President. “It will help provide amazing opportunities for

over 100 student-athletes per year to continue the activities they love at the collegiate level, to be part of a dynamic team, and to compete for championships while preparing for meaningful careers. It is also a tremendous vote of confidence in what we are doing at SMC to make high-quality education more affordable for everyone. Through our long partnership, it has become clear that 1st Source Bank supports improving college attainment rates and the economic vitality of the whole region.”

The \$400,000 gift from 1st Source Foundation secures naming rights through 2032 for the entire competition area including the gymnasium, court and seating space. To create a first-class destination venue, the overall project includes replacement of the original gymnasium floor with a new high-grade basketball and volleyball surface, replacement of the original bleachers with a new system that will meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and provide better comfort and accessibility for fans of all ages. This project also includes installation of energy-efficient LED overhead lights, installation of a new video scoreboard and audio system, construction of new state-of-the-art locker rooms for the Roadrunners, reconfiguration of the existing locker rooms for visiting teams, the addition of an Officials’ Room, and construction of a second-floor suite of coaches’ offices and gathering area - with a glass wall overlooking the court - suitable for receptions, recruiting events and premium viewing experiences. The 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse is expected to be ready for use by student-athletes in July 2022.

“We are honored to support Southwestern Michigan College and its vision for a state-of-the-art field house where student-athletes, faculty, staff, and spectators alike will benefit from the new facilities,” commented Shelli Alexander, Regional President, 1st Source Bank. “For nearly 60 years, Southwestern Michigan College has made a fundamental difference in our community by providing quality, affordable education – we view this gift as an investment in our future leaders. We are pleased to help Southwestern Michigan College provide an exceptional collegiate experience, right here at home. We also know that athletic teams and band programs have a positive impact on student engagement and completion rates. That is the main purpose of this grant, to ensure more students from our region obtain a college degree and do so in as short a time as possible.”

1st Source Foundation provides support to organizations working in the following areas:

- Social welfare and human services
- Education
- Culture and the arts
- Community, civic, and neighborhood involvement

The 1st Source Foundation was established to enhance and strengthen the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the communities served by its banking centers.

1st Source Corporation, parent company of 1st Source Bank, has assets of over \$8.0 billion and is the largest locally-controlled financial institution headquartered in the northern Indiana-southwestern Michigan area. The Corporation includes 79 banking centers, 18 1st Source Bank

Specialty Finance Group locations nationwide, nine Wealth Advisory Services locations and ten 1st Source Insurance offices. For more than 157 years, 1st Source has been committed to our mission of helping our clients achieve security, build wealth, and realize their dreams. For more information, visit www.1stsource.com.

Southwestern Michigan College is a public, residential and commuter community college founded in 1964. The college delivers above-average graduation/transfer rates compared to other community colleges nationally and student college-level course success that is consistently in the top 25 percent of two-year colleges nationally. The college is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Those interested in learning more about Southwestern Michigan College or supporting SMC Athletics should visit swmich.edu and smcroadrunners.com.

Andrea Bullock
1st Source Bank
+1 574-235-2505
[email us here](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/557417378>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.