

The Little Telescope That Could



Left to right: District Governing Board Member and Astronomer Nat White, Naval Observatory Representative Don Hutton and CCC President Dr. Leah L. Bornstein

On Nov. 29, a special dedication and acknowledgment was held at CCC to honor those that were instrumental in making the CCC Observatory project a reality and to celebrate its completion.

Retired astronomer and long-time CCC District Governing Board Member Dr. Nathaniel (Nat) White said at the dedication that the story of the DIMM Telescope donated to the College in 2008 by the Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station (NOFS) could be the a children's book titled the "little telescope that could."

The story would be about a retiring telescope that was of great service to the country, and now needed a new home. Recognizing the telescope's value, Dr. White knew that it would be great tool for future generations of students studying astronomy at CCC.

With Dr. White's encouragement, the telescope valued at \$133,000 was donated to CCC. Although the telescope now had a home, it still needed an observatory, so the story continued.

Through the hard work of the foundation staff and board under the direction of retired Director Bob Erb and past foundation President Chris Bavasi, a private foundation called the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation agreed to fund the cost of the building, needed parts and labor to build the observatory. Director of Facilities at CCC Mark Easton and his team supervised the project.

After opening remarks by the President of CCC Dr. Leah L. Bornstein, Padraig Houlahan, IT Manager at Lowell Observatory and astronomy instructor at CCC, discussed the benefits to students that will be using the telescope. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station Chief of the NPOI Division Don Hutton talked about the history of the telescope, the role it played with

the government, and the incredible journey that landed it in Flagstaff and eventually at CCC.

After the dedication, Dr. White proudly led tours of the observatory and of course told more of the story about the little telescope that could. The story about a telescope that served its country and now is the "hook" that will fuel interest in the sciences for many CCC students.