

DAILY COMMERCIAL

LOCAL

'Ken Bragg Way': He's helped others move forward. Now a Lake Tech road is named after him

Many might say that it's only fitting that a road leading to a brighter future be named after leader and innovator Ken Bragg.



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Career guidance has been at the core of Ken Bragg's sense of purpose. He's helped others move forward, and now a road that leads others to an education is named after him.

The Leesburg benefactor was honored Wednesday, Sept. 18, with a Lake County street-name dedication at Lake Technical College, also known as Lake Tech.

The Fresh Start Job Placement Ministry director at the Christian Care Center has served as founding director and chief administrative officer for the Lake County Area Vocational-Technical Center, now Lake Tech.

Suffice it to say, it's not the first time Bragg's name has appeared above a public space. The Kenneth A. Bragg Public Safety Complex county building in Tavares was also named in his honor.

Bragg has established training programs in more than 40 occupational areas during a 32-year career. A major part of Bragg's legacy, Lake Tech has been in continuous operation for more than 50 years, serving thousands of students with occupational certifications for gainful employment.

Bragg also established the Business Assistance Center at Lake-Sumter Community College, now Lake-Sumter State College, and served as manager there for two and a half years.

A founder and past president of Leadership Lake County, Bragg, naturally, is a lifelong learner. He has a bachelor's and a master's degrees from Western Kentucky University and has completed doctoral courses at the University of Florida, Michigan State University and the University of Arkansas.

He and his wife, Sue, have been married for 60 years. They have two daughters, Vickie Bragg Wroten and Beth Bragg Hennon. Ken and Sue live on a small ranch in Fruitland Park.

Back in 2007, when the economy had taken a major downturn, and unemployment reached historical highs, Bragg volunteered to start a free service to unemployed citizens and for local employers.

"Many are now gainfully employed in careers of their choice and are contributing members of society and their communities," his bio reads.

Bragg also worked to initiate a first-ever night class in Culinary Arts at Leesburg High School to serve unemployed and out-of-school youth and adults.

Bragg also was instrumental in the founding of Lake County School's Construction Trades Academy. He now serves on the advisory committee for the program, which now serves around 100 students, who are trained for entry-level jobs in construction occupations. Add it all up, and Bragg has provided more than a half-century of service.

