“It’s our university and we’re proud of it. And we’re going to do everything – as long as I’m mayor – to support it.”

– Joe Shaw
Lancaster mayor
During his comments, Pettus said about the first time he saw the collection, stacked to the ceiling of a storage building in cardboard boxes. Pettus said he was almost overwhelmed as he thought about the time the Catawba Indian potters had spent digging clay for the pots from local river banks, the tears they cried over and love they gave their unique handiwork.

He said it was a partnership that brought the collection to USCL, and it was partnerships that would preserve the NAS Center’s mission.

“The partnership with Dr. John Catalano, and USCL, and the partnership with the city and its staff, and yes, a little bit of Catawba pottery brought us here today,” Pettus said. “I want to tell you, I love you, and I love Lancaster County.”

“With that, NAS Center Curator of Collections Brittany Taylor unveiled the gallery’s three signs, made and donated by local artist Bob Doster. After the event, Chriswell said contributions of the three were immeasurable to the center’s very existence.”

“Without Duke Energy, there wouldn’t be a Native American Studies Center. Without Duke Energy, we wouldn’t be here without them,” Chriswell said. “We wouldn’t have anything to put in it without Lindsey Pettus, and we wouldn’t be able to store the pottery without Duke Energy; they donated those cases, and provided us with grant money for more pottery purchases.”

Chriswell said community support has a compounding effect that helps make it easier for the NAS Center to procure grants.

“By its university and we’re proud of it,” Shaw said. “And we’re going to do everything – as long as I’m mayor, as long as I’m here – to support it.”

Pettus, owner of D. Lindsay Pettus Real Estate in Lancaster, is a life-long Lancaster County resident and long-time supporter of local historic, conservation and community causes.

In introducing Pettus, NAS Center Director Dr. Stephen Cowell said he was instrumental in procuring the university’s acclaimed collection of Catawba pottery and extensive research from Dr. Tom Blumer, which the center now houses.

Most of all, Shaw said, he’s proud the city of Lancaster is in a facility that honours the legacy and contributions of Native Americans, and proud of Lancaster’s valued partnership with USCL.

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“Let this be the best thing that’s happened to this city,” Shaw said. “Let this be a way to honor for community and its business owners to help support the center.

“There are plenty of other spaces that will need to be named, another gallery, a meeting room, an archaelogical lab,” Chriswell said. “We hope to they (the honorees) set an example for how other businesses and individuals can support the Native American Studies Center.”

The USCL’s Native American Studies Center can be reached at (803) 313-7172.

Contact reporter Reece Murphy at (803) 283-1151.

City of Lancaster officials in front of the University of South Carolina Lancaster Native American Center’s new Red Rose Gallery are, from left, city councilman John Howard, councilwoman Jackie Harris, mayor Joe Shaw, support services director Teresa Meeks and city administrator Helen Sowell.

Duke Energy District Manager Rick Jiran in front of the new Duke Energy Gallery at the University of South Carolina Lancaster’s Native American Studies Center.

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