

# Gala Raises \$26,000 For BCCU#2

By Dave Bell

Approximately \$26,000 was raised for the Bond County Community Unit #2 Academic Foundation at the fourth annual "Light The Way Gala" fundraising event on Saturday.

That total included about \$16,600 from the silent and live auctions, plus another \$10,000 from sponsorships, ticket sales and a 50-50 drawing, according to Dr. William Beckert, president of the foundation.

"It always surprises me how people are willing to go over the top in the auction - all to support educational opportunities in the district. Some of the bidding gets pretty competitive."

He said that the purpose of the event is to provide resources for programs that the district otherwise wouldn't be able to provide.

"The teacher grants allow them to go above and beyond - to do things that capture the imagination of the students and get them excited about learning," Beckert said. "This year it also goes to establishing the STEM program, which will expose students to new technology and advanced learning opportunities in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math."

"The community really stepped up, once again."

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**GALA ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Dr. William Beckert, president of the Bond County Community Unit #2 Academic Foundation, addresses the crowd.

*Photo by Dave Bell*

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The event, which was held at Copper Dock Banquet Center, featured 62 live auction items and another 38 items in the silent auction.

The live auction was conducted by Langham Auctioneers Inc., and entertainment for the evening was provided by the Chapman Brothers Acoustic Duo.



**AUCTION ITEMS:** Sarah Klenke helped with Saturday night's auction by displaying the items being sold during the live auction program.

*Photo by Dave Bell*