MEET AUDREY & JOHN SETTLE
“Supporting education is a way of changing the world.”

Longtime ACCESS supporters and Batten Legacy Society members Audrey and John Settle have a love for traveling the world. They value the authentic cultural experiences gained from their explorations, while never losing sight of the importance of giving back and supporting the community in which they reside. As residents of Virginia Beach, the Settles have a vision to strengthen the future of South Hampton Roads through the power of education by educating tomorrow’s leaders, both today and for generations to come.

The importance of education was ingrained in both John and Audrey at a very early age. With both of John’s parents being college professors, he practically grew up on a college campus. The couple has always supported their alma maters. According to Audrey “supporting education is a way of changing the world.”

Shortly after moving to Virginia Beach they began researching organizations that could have their desired impact on students. During the process, they received an invitation to an ACCESS Scholarship Awards Luncheon. The former ACCESS student who was the keynote speaker for the event – Levi Brown of the Arizona Cardinals - was a graduate of Penn State, John’s alma mater. John asked Audrey “Are we going to this?” The couple attended and were impressed. After doing further research, they concluded that their desire to make an immediate impact on local students could best be realized by endowing a scholarship that would be awarded to students every year at this event in perpetuity.

While making their estate plans, the Settles solidified their legacy by committing to a planned gift from their estate to benefit future generations of ACCESS students and make a lasting impact for years to come.

“Getting to know the students and seeing the good that our gift accomplishes first-hand is what gives us satisfaction,” says Audrey. Audrey adds “It also feels good to meet the parents. They are so appreciative… the entire experience leads me to tearing up.”

Audrey and John believe that providing students with the opportunity to reach their fullest potential through higher education not only improves their lives, but empowers them to make the most positive change in our society. Their planned gift to ACCESS is their way of ensuring that their values and beliefs will live on in the efforts of countless lives in the future. “Making a planned gift allows a person to continue to have a voice in the future of a cause,” says Audrey.

Make a planned gift to ACCESS College Foundation today to bring meaning and purpose to a life well lived, and to improve the community you leave behind with your resources. Help ensure that the purposeful work of ACCESS continues for future generations. Let us welcome you to the Batten Legacy Society!

For assistance with your charitable gift plans or for more information on how to join our Batten Legacy Society, please contact:
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The Batten Legacy Society welcomes as members donors who make a planned gift to Access - regardless of size.