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2027 scholarship catalog

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3-O Day Scholarship

Description

3-0 Day (Our Bodies, Our Selves, Our Responsibilities) had its beginning in 1977 largely due to the efforts of Rev. Roger Brooks, a minister with the United Church of Christ in Nekoosa. In talking to physicians, school personnel, other ministers, and parents, it became clear that there existed a growing awareness and concern regarding teen pregnancy. As a result, representatives from south Wood County, including a group of private and public social service people, school personnel, clergy, nurses and doctors, and parents was formed to discuss the issue. In the fall of 1979, the group incorporated and formed a board of directors.

Since incorporating, the 3-0 Day Board realized that area youth faced a large number of challenges that impacted their overall wellbeing. To that end, the Board provided an annual one day seminar, offering a variety of workshops aimed at enhancing student total wellbeing. Students from over 20 schools throughout south Wood County and beyond attended this event, with the last event being held in 2022.

The 3-0 Day Board has come to recognize that topics in student physical, social, mental and emotional health are now being covered in the schools. As a result, the board has agreed that the funds remaining can be best used to fund scholarships for students pursuing careers in mental health fields. The mission of 3-0 Day has always been to educate youth so they make responsible decisions that help them to lead healthy and productive lives. This scholarship will continue that mission into the future.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from a public or parochial high school in the south Wood County area, graduating senior homeschool student who resides in the south Wood County area, or continuing college student who resides in the south Wood County area

o Pursuing a career in a mental health field, including but not limited to: social workers, school counselors, mental health counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, or mental health nurses

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Demonstrates involvement in school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities, with preference given to a student who exemplifies kindness and compassion

o Financial need may be a consideration

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe your life goals, what a college education means to you, and how you plan to give back to your community someday.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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John Akey Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by the Wausau Area Local Union No. 4532 as a tribute to John Akey. He was a national business agent for the American Postal Workers Union APWU AFL/CIO at the time of his death in September 2001.

John was employed with the U.S. Postal Service for 34 years. During that time, he was the Wausau Area Local Union President for 21 years and was president of the Wisconsin American Postal Workers Union for 12 years.

Joyce Richards, retired president of APWU Wisconsin, remembers John as a mentor and friend. "As we each tuck John into that special place in our hearts, we must remember all of his examples, both serious and mischievous. As the new and young ones enter John's beloved union you must take them under your wing and teach them well as John did," says Richards.

"John had a way of making us feel there was a bright side to everything, and to hang in there as it would no doubt get better," says Bill Sparks, President of Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local, APWU.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior or continuing college student who is a child, stepchild, or grandchild of an APWU member of the Wausau Area Local No. 4532 or non-traditional college student who is an APWU member of the Wausau Area Local No. 4532, or child, stepchild, grandchild or spouse of a member

o Graduating high school senior or continuing college student must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; non-traditional college student must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe the importance of unionism.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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American Legion Post 9 Scholarship

Description

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, wartime veterans' organization. A community-service organization, it now numbers nearly three million members - men and women - in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments - one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The scholarships were established by the American Legion Hagerstrom-Rude-Young-Clark Post 9 of Wisconsin Rapids to assist students.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of of a high school in Wisconsin, with preference given to a student graduating from Assumption, Lincoln, Nekoosa, Port Edwards or River Cities High Schools who is a descendant of a veteran discharged under honorable conditions or currently serving

o Preference may be given to a son, daughter, grandchild, brother, sister, niece, or nephew of current year paid or deceased member of Hagerstrom-Rude-Young-Clark Post #9

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Consideration may be given to financial need, as well as merit, promise and achievement

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe what patriotism means to you.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Helen L. Arndt Scholarship

Description

Helen Arndt was a long-time employee of Consolidated Papers, Inc., advancing within the company and ultimately serving as secretary for George Mead. She retired from that position in 1980.

A lifelong resident of the Wisconsin Rapids area, Helen believed in the power of higher education to open doors for all people. She established this scholarship fund in 1996.

It was Helen's desire to reach students who are deserving of scholarship assistance and might not qualify for a high percentage of financial assistance or those that are deserving, though not at the very top of the class.

Helen passed away on December 20, 2008, at the age of 92.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; pursuing a minimum of a two-year associate degree

o Demonstrates service to school and community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Brent J. Atkinson Memorial Scholarship

Description

Brent was a senior in the Nekoosa Public School District at the time of his death. He passed away at the age of 17 on November 14, 2010, due to a hunting accident. Brent enjoyed working on ANY engine. His goal was to attend technical college and become a diesel mechanic.

This scholarship was established in loving memory of Brent by donations from his family and many friends. Brent is survived by his mother, Julia, and father, David.

Brent lived his life to the fullest, with his favorite saying "You only live once".

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school or charter school in the south Wood County area, with preference given to a graduating senior from Nekoosa High School or Nekoosa Academy

o Minimum GPA of 2.00

o Pursuing a career in any field; primary consideration may be given to a student pursuing a career in diesel mechanics

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, technical college or vocational trade school

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Elda Bark Memorial Scholarship

Description

Elda Bark was a generous and loving woman in life and the effects of her generosity are being felt in this community more than 40 years after her death in 1978. The Elda Bark Memorial Scholarship was established with a bequest of $300,000.

The former Elda Wendt was born in Milwaukee and married Alfred Bark in 1929. They moved to Wisconsin Rapids when Mr. Bark was hired as a corporate officer at Preway, Inc. Their only child, a daughter, Caryl Jean, was severely handicapped and died at the age of 24. Friends think that it was Caryl's inability to take part in activities with other children that led her mother to establish a scholarship that would benefit many young people.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise; possess qualities of leadership potential

o Financial need documented through completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Report

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Tammy Batten Memorial Scholarship

Description

Tammy Batten was a beloved physical education teacher at Washington Elementary School prior to her death in 2003 at the age of 43. She was an inspiration to students and teachers alike – involved in many activities such as Special Olympics, play buddy groups, jump rope club, and student-teacher game days.

Working for Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools, she served as district specially designed physical education teacher and a special needs early childhood teacher during her 17-year tenure. Tammy was a track and volleyball coach at East Junior High School and Lincoln High School; and she was an advocate for fitness both statewide and nationally.

Tammy is survived by her husband, David, and daughter, Krista. She was a loving, caring, giving, and encouraging friend. Her wonderful spirit touched everyone. She lived what she believed in - helping friends, having faith in God, and helping others become the best they could be. Tammy always had concern and showed her love for others.

It is in this spirit that the Tammy Batten Memorial Scholarship was established by family and friends to perpetuate the profession she loved so much.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a teaching career in K-12 education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates service to their school and community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Bell Family Scholarship

Description

The Bell Family Scholarship was created to provide financial support to worthy graduating students who are motivated to pursue their education beyond high school.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa, John Edwards, or Assumption High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates good citizenship, academically gifted, and involved in their community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Lewie Benitz Memorial Scholarship

Description

Lewie Benitz spent over 40 years teaching Driver's Education and coaching wrestling at Lincoln High School. He received numerous awards throughout his coaching career, including inductions into the Wisconsin Coaches, National Wrestling, and National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame. He finished his coaching career with 17 State Championships and over 700 dual wins.

Lewie enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, traveling with his wife, Joyce, and spending time with family and friends. He valued relationships over all else, and made each and every one of the thousands of lives he touched feel special. He was a devoted husband of 59 years, a loving father, and the best grandpa in the world.

This memorial scholarship was established in loving memory by Lewie's family and made possible through generous support from his dear friends, the Rapids Wrestling family, and the community he cared so much about.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids, WI

o Minimum GPA 2.50

o Pursuing a teaching career in K-12 education

o Must have participated in or been involved in LHS athletics for all four years, 9th through 12th grade; players, managers, statisticians, etc. eligible

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Financial need may be a consideration

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe how athletics have impacted your life.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Elinor G. Benkowski Memorial Scholarship

Description

Nothing could have been more meaningful to her or more depictive of the wonderful teaching legacy of Elinor Benkowski than the establishment of a memorial scholarship in her name.

Elinor devoted more than four decades of her working life to the teaching of young high school girls and boys in their most formative years. She was dedicated to their well-being and committed to ensuring that their education was grounded in a truly inquisitive zeal for knowledge while concurrently embracing and instilling in them the highest human values so essential to their becoming contributory and caring members of society.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior who attended Howe Elementary School in Wisconsin Rapids

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates service to school and community

o Preference given to students entering the field of education

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Kathleen E. Berg Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by Kathleen Berg through her last will and testament. Kathleen was born April 3, 1926 in Wisconsin Rapids to Robert and Anna (Lewis) Berg. She graduated from William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, and went on to be a well-loved educator in the Wauwatosa School District for many years. Kathleen valued her baby grand piano and was a gifted pianist.

In addition to music, traveling the world was a passion of hers. Kathleen's adventures included memorable trips to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Paris, and the eastern United States. She was a very social person, who liked to focus on the interesting people she encountered.

Kathleen had a very gracious nature, as evidenced through her desire to support our community and its local students, particularly those pursuing a career in music education. She passed away November 17, 2018 at the age of 92.

Criteria

o Graduating south Wood County high school senior, or a continuing college student that resides in the south Wood County area

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited institution of your choice

o Pursuing a degree in music, with preference given to music education

o Demonstrates a strong desire to pursue a career in teaching music

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Billmeyer Memorial Scholarship

Description

Carl and Marjorie Billmeyer were lifelong residents of Wisconsin Rapids. Mr. Billmeyer was an architect who designed and built such memorable churches as S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, as well as Assumption High School and many other buildings in the south Wood County area.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters, Wisconsin Rapids Elks, Rotary Club, and the American Institute of Architects. Mrs. Billmeyer was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Elks Ladies, active in her church, S.S. Peter & Paul, and school activities.

"Dad found pleasure in the outdoors, hunting and fishing when he could take a couple days or a week off," said his son, David Billmeyer. "He also loved to travel, as did my mother." He remembered his dad as being a very hard worker. Daughters of the couple are Rosanne Mehta of Mequon and Mary Bronk of Wisconsin Rapids.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School

o Pursuing a career in architecture, engineering or business

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise

o Academic challenging course work pertaining to chosen profession

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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John & Karen Bingham Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in 2011, by the Board of Central Wisconsin BMX Club, Inc. in honor and appreciation for John and Karen's many years of service and dedication. They have supported the youth of our community through their careers in the field of education and in their involvement with Central Wisconsin BMX – an organization that promotes and encourages the sport of BMX and what it represents.

BMX (bicycle motocross) offers discipline to focus energy, self-esteem to build confidence, physical fitness to develop strong minds and bodies, as well as offering family unity, entertainment, community involvement, and awareness.

John and Karen were introduced to BMX racing in 1998 when their son, Casey, got involved. The family atmosphere and great people associated with BMX racing drew John and Karen to get more active in the organization. John served as president and Karen as secretary/treasurer for 11 years.

Highlights of those years were the relocation of the track facility, growth in membership, hosting seven State Championship Finals, and the first national BMX event held locally in 2010.

With the establishment of this scholarship, Central Wisconsin BMX believes the generous time and talents that John and Karen have shared with so many will be honored by their financial opportunity given in their name. Students will be able to continue to pursue their dreams through higher education for many years to come.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior, prior year high school graduate, or student who will have earned a GED or HSED certificate before the start of the current year fall semester

o Current ABA or USA BMX member in Wisconsin

o Minimum GPA 2.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at a college, university, technical college, or specialty school

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Renee J. Bombaci Memorial Scholarship

Description

Renee Bombaci was a 1980 graduate of Lincoln High School. She earned her Bachelor Degree in Social Work from UW-Madison in 1985 and her Master's Degree from California State University-San Bernardino. Renee was working for the Department of Social Services as a training coordinator at the time of her death on December 18, 2003.

Established by her mother, Ginger, and Jerry Hendricksen, to memorialize the beautiful person that Renee was, this scholarship provides assistance to a graduating senior pursuing a career in social work.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a degree in social work, psychology or any related field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates interest in social work type of career through school, work and community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Colleen and Bridget Bord Memorial Scholarship

Description

Born in 1963, Bridget, also known as Bee, began touching lives with her great gifts of love and laughter. She was so much fun to be around with her special way of embracing people and life. Bee had a heart of gold and was known for continuously reaching out to people personally and through the many service organizations that she was involved in. Bridget went back to school while working full time to earn a business degree. She was very busy with her career but always found time for what was most important to her, people.

Colleen Bord began life in 1927 as a farm girl. She carried many of those values with her all of her nearly 95 years of life. She was a real gem of a human being. She was always giving of herself be it her family, her neighbors or her community. It was all done with a happy heart and a bit of butter.(She loved her butter!!) There was no challenge too great for her and she always rose to the occasion. She could build a house, make a wedding dress, and go back to school while raising eight children and waitressing at night. While working full time and raising her family, she also was involved in her church, schools, scouts and other clubs and organizations. Colleen was very classy from her dress to her home. Everything was done very well. Colleen embraced new ideas and loved and welcomed all.

Colleen and Bridget both loved helping other people. They both believed in the power of education and completed their's as nontraditional students. It is their family's hope that through this scholarship, Colleen and Bridget's kind and giving spirits, will inspire the lives of many people for years to come.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption or Lincoln High School or non-traditional college student who resides in south Wood County

o Minimum GPA 2.75

o Pursuing a bachelor or associates degree

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Involved in their community through school, work and/or extracurricular activities

o Demonstrates spirit of a helping and caring attitude

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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John Marshall Buehler Scholarship

Description

John Marshall Buehler Scholarship, established by the Family of Gerard and Doris Veneman, acknowledges the long family history and the support between the Veneman and Buehler families. As an employee of the Nekoosa Edwards Paper Company, Mr. Buehler worked for Mr. Veneman on numerous business and community projects. Mr. Buehler and Mrs. Veneman grew up as neighbors in Port Edwards. To this day, their children and families remain close friends.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a senior graduate of John Edwards High School, with a special focus on those students who will pursue an Associate or Bachelor's degree in the areas of science or the law. Consideration for awarding this scholarship will also include volunteer service to the community, and perseverance on the part of the student.

While this scholarship was initiated in the name of Mr. Buehler for his lifetime of service to the community, it also acknowledges the Veneman family and their continued support of the students and community of Port Edwards.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of John Edwards High School in Port Edwards, WI

o GPA 2.50 – 3.50

o Pursuing a bachelor or associates degree; preference may be given to a student pursuing a careeer in a science-related, engineering, or law field

o Preference may be given to a student who has a medically certified disability

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Consideration may be given to a student who demonstrates perseverance and has a strong potential to succeed

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Helen Cartwright Graff Scholarship

Description

Helen Cartwright Graff established this scholarship with the intent to help deserving local students who have financial need and real interest in learning. According to Helen, "My college years are long past, but I remember how much I would have welcomed even a small scholarship. My family had very limited means, and I was completely on my own in paying for college. Scholarships, grants, and student loans were practically unheard of in those years. I know all about tight budgeting in college."

She wanted to encourage students to attend UW-Oshkosh because her campus experience there was wonderful. UW-Oshkosh not only prepared her for a career as a teacher, but also for life-long learning. "Studying English seemed a natural choice for me, and I have never regretted that choice. Because I loved to share whatever knowledge I had, an education major was another easy choice. The faculty at Oshkosh focused on giving undergraduates like me a high-quality college education. They gave me a lot of constructive direction and personal attention. I think they prepared me well for my career, and for life. I hope the recipients of this scholarship will experience the same educational excellence at UW-Oshkosh."

"My years at Oshkosh, and the following 40 years teaching middle and high school English classes, were as personally rewarding as I could have ever hoped. I want to cover a few expenses for qualifying students, so they can work toward their own educational and career goals with that much less worry about money."

Helen passed away in October 2017 at the age of 91.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from a high school in south Wood County

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

o Demonstrates academic achievement, passion towards field of study through involvement in school, work, and extracurricular activities

o Primary consideration given to student with financial need

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon academic performance

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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CDA STEM Scholarship

Description

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) are crucial to the success and future of this great country. We need the best thinkers and innovators to forge our future. The Cyber Defense Agency, Inc. (CDA) has worked hard to defend the United States technology assets with some of the best and brightest STEM professionals. Through this scholarship, CDA wishes to locally encourage and aid in the creation of a continuing stream of bright young women and men who are excited, passionate and gifted in STEM areas.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior or junior entering college a year early

o Resident of the south Wood County area

o Minimum GPA 3.70

o Pursuing at least a bachelor's degree in a STEM field or STEM teaching

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic excellence as well as promise and passion for career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Children's Choice Elementary School Scholarship

Description

Children's Choice Elementary School opened in the fall of 1890, with an enrollment of 22 children. Known to everyone as District No. 4, the little school on the corner continued to give the three "R's" to children for many years. In 1917, District No. 4's parent organization asked its members to submit potential names for the school. Mrs. Gilbert Moll submitted "Children's Choice School," which was accepted. In June 1949 construction began on a new building, which was designed to accommodate 150 children in six classrooms and a multi-purpose room.

Although Children's Choice School went through many changes since its doors opened in 1890, it continued to provide a quality educational experience for children until its closure in 2006. This scholarship was established by donations from Children's Choice families, PTC, staff, and alumni to honor a place that will be remembered by hundreds of students, families, and staff members as a wonderful place in which to work, learn, and play.

The last kindergarten class that attended Children's Choice Elementary School graduated from high school in 2018. With a strong belief in the power of education and the need for dedicated, quality teachers, Children's Choice PTC committee members (John Benbow, Timothy Bruns, Diane Glodosky) revised the focus of the scholarship in 2021 to support students pursuing a teaching career in K-12 education.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a teaching career in K-12 education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates promise and passion for career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Fred Dahm Memorial Scholarship

Description

Fred Dahm was a social studies teacher at Lincoln High School for 30 years until his death on September 28, 2001, at the age of 55. He taught a variety of subjects including American History, Great Books, and Political Philosophy. Fred received numerous awards throughout his career. In 1986, the UW-Stevens Point History Department named him Outstanding History Teacher of the Year. Fred was the recipient of the Kohl Teaching Fellowship and a Wisconsin Rapids Teacher of the Year Award in 1998.

He was also Director of Volunteer Services for the Lincoln High School Volunteer Center. He brought creativity and humor into all of his endeavors as well as a strong sense of social responsibility.

"Fred believed that public education is the cornerstone for maintaining democracy and should be available to everyone," says his wife, Mary Dahm. "He also believed that involvement - in addition to thought - is part of education and that is why Fred established the Volunteer Center."

Upon Fred's death, many former students came forward to share their sense of loss and appreciation for having had him as a teacher. Fred's family established this scholarship to continue his work in helping students accomplish goals of social responsibility.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a career that provides service to others

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates commitment to a vision of a better world; emphasis on volunteerism, civic engagement, and citizenship

o Consideration may be given for financial need

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe how volunteerism has influenced your view of our community and the world around you.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Michael and Susan Daly "Badger #7" Scholarship

Description

The Michael and Susan Daly “Badger #7” Scholarship Fund was developed to honor Mike and Sue Daly. They were graduates of Lincoln High School and “lifelong learners” who believed strongly in the importance of education and athletics.

Mike attended Drake University and was a graduate of UW-Madison. Sue attended Miss Woods Teacher College (now part of Macalester College) in St. Paul, MN. Their three children and eight grandchildren have all received a degree in higher education or are currently pursuing one.

College degrees prepared Mike and Sue for successful careers in business and education. After serving in the U.S. Air Force as a jet fighter pilot, Mike took over his family’s casualty insurance business. He was a top sales agent for Northwestern Mutual Life for over 40 years. Sue taught kindergarten in Rice Lake and Sheboygan. She also started the Rudolph kindergarten program.

Being a student athlete was important to Mike. He was inducted into the Lincoln High School Hall of Fame for achievements in basketball, baseball, and track. At 5’8”, he played college basketball at UW-Madison, where he wore “#7” on his jersey, while earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Badger Athletics continued to be a passion of Mike’s throughout his life. He was a member of the “W Club” and held Badger football season tickets for over 50 years.

Throughout their 57 years of marriage, Mike and Sue supported the public and private schools in Wisconsin Rapids and UW-Madison in many ways. They would be proud to have their legacy continued through the Michael and Susan Daly “Badger #7” Scholarship Fund.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption or Lincoln High School

o Actively involved in high school athletics

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at UW-Madison

o Demonstrates involvement in school and community

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe how your education and athletics have contributed to who you are today and to your plans for the future.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Merlin David Memorial Sports Scholarship

Description

The Merlin David Memorial Scholarship honors the remarkable legacy of Merlin David, who dedicated over 50 years to coaching in the Nekoosa School District. Throughout his illustrious career, Merlin coached baseball, football, basketball, and wrestling, earning the deep respect and affection of his players. This scholarship celebrates his unwavering commitment to the youth in his community, recognizing the profound impact he had on countless lives through his passion for sports and mentorship.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School

o Involved in at least one high school athletic sports program for a minimum of two (2) years; players, managers and aids eligible

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university, or two-year technical or vocational college

o Demonstrates leadership in high school sports, with preference given to a student who has mentored fellow and/or younger student athletes

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: Applicant will answer the following questions: 1) Describe what you have learned from participating in NHS' sports program(s); 2) If applicable, describe a time where you acted as a mentor and leader in sports; and 3) Describe what your intentions are after you graduate from college or technical college.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Chuck Davies Scholarship

Description

Chuck established this fund in appreciation for many people who worked with him along the way.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a public or parochial high school in south Wood County or a non-traditional college student, including veterans, who reside in south Wood County

o Pursuing higher education in any field of study

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at any accredited institution of choice

o Demonstrates strong personal character, good work ethic, and dedication to continuing their education

o Although scholastic achievement is important, the C student should be considered as strongly as the A student

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Kathleen Davis Scholarship, in memory of her parents, Gordon and Olga Krubsack

Description

Kathleen Krubsack-Davis established this scholarship as a memorial to her parents, Gordon and Olga Krubsack, and as a heartfelt thank you to the community of Nekoosa, the Nekoosa School District and the surrounding area for their support after an accident in 1989 that took her father and severely injured her mother and Kathleen. Olga passed more recently in 2022 at the wonderful age of 96.

Gordon was a long-time employee of the Nekoosa School District, and Olga was a housewife and so much more. They raised five beautiful children throughout those years, all of them attending and graduating from either Alexander or Nekoosa High School, with four of the five children remaining here to also raise their children in this wonderful town. With roots as deep as these, this is Kathleen's way of continuing to show what Gordon and Olga tried to demonstrate throughout their lives – that good comes from people helping people. She hopes that the recipient of this scholarship, whose intent is to assist the average or C-D student with financial aid in obtaining their dreams, will pay the "good will" forward through the coming years to keep this small-town heritage school bell ringing.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School or Nekoosa Academy

o Minimum GPA 2.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, technical college, or specialty school

o Although scholastic achievement is important, the C student should be considered as strongly as the A or B student

o Consideration should be given to the quiet, deserving student to the same degree as the student involved in numerous extracurricular activities

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Applicant will answer questions related to 1) number of siblings residing with parent/guardian; 2) sibling(s) grade level; 3) whether other family members are also pursuing post-secondary education in the fall.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dempze Family Scholarship

Description

The Dempze Family Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 by the children of Gordon and Iris Dempze, to create a lasting memorial that reflects their strong belief in education. The fund was made possible by the generous support of many friends and relatives of the Dempze family.

Gordon and Iris Dempze were lifelong residents of Biron, where they owned and operated the Dempze Cranberry Company, as well as the Gaynor Cranberry Company in Cranmoor and the Tamarack Flowage Cranberry Company in Three Lakes.

In the early 1940s, Gordon and Iris lived in Stevens Point where Gordon served as a civilian flight instructor, training pilots for World War II. He then served in the Army Air Corps as a pilot and flew supplies between North Africa and Italy. After the war, Gordon and Iris settled down in Biron to manage their cranberry marshes and raise their family.

Like many members of the "Greatest Generation", Gordon and Iris believed in the value of hard work and a good education. They took great joy in encouraging and supporting their children's and grandchildren's educations, and their children feel that they would be pleased to have this scholarship fund established in their memory.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior, continuing college student, technical college student, or non-traditional college student residing in south Wood County

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a minimum of a two-year degree in the field of agriculture, engineering, health sciences, or mechanical trades

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates characteristic of having academic drive, as well as being conscientious and hard working

o A student with extenuating financial need may be given primary consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Elisa Derickson Fund for Writing Scholarship

Description

Elisa Derickson, a 1993 Lincoln High School graduate, won an essay contest sponsored by Seventeen Magazine in 1994 when she wrote about "beauty being more than skin deep" in 100 words or less. Among her prizes were a $10,000 college scholarship and $4,000 to donate to the charity of her choice. She donated the money to the newly formed Community Foundation of South Wood County.

Elisa was a member of Riverwood Roundtable, a local writing group. Edith Nash of Wisconsin Rapids, a founding member of the writing group, contributed $1,000 to the fund, along with additional funds she raised. All money was matched by funds from the Richard S. Brazeau Family Foundation.

Elisa is the daughter of Norvel and Sandra Derickson of Wisconsin Rapids. She received a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Share an original short story or piece of poetry that demonstrates your writing ability.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

David R. Dolan Scholarship

Description

This scholarship is awarded in memory of David R. Dolan. David attended Lincoln High School, where he played football. He went on to play for Marquette University Varsity and the Wausau Musky semipro team from 1954 to 1962. David proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean War. His career spanned more than 40 years as a clinical social worker for Kenosha schools and as a Dane County probation and parole officer.

This scholarship supports graduating seniors of Lincoln High School who have participated in at least one complete season of athletics. One of Dave's fondest memories was jumping the fence with his two nephews after the Badger's football team defeated #1 ranked Ohio State. On Wisconsin!

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA of 2.70

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Participated in at least one complete season of athletics at Lincoln High School

o Primary consideration will be given to merit, including academic promise, extracurricular activities, community involvement and financial need

o Multi-year award for up to two years based upon academic performance

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Double Diamond Leadership Scholarship

Description

This fund was established in 2004 by Mitchell R. Waite while he was working as the Fire Marshal with the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department. Mitchell had over 26 years in the fire service, retiring as Fire Chief in 2011. He also had a 42 year military career, retiring as a commissioned officer (Colonel) in the U.S. Army Reserve. Since retiring from the military, he has become a member of Team Rubicon and a FEMA Reservist to continue to serve and assist those in need in the wake of a disaster anywhere around the world.

Dr. Waite earned his doctoral degree from Walden University in Applied Management and Decision Sciences, with a specialization in Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness. He has also been a visiting professor for over 37 years and instructs traditional, online, and blended courses for several colleges and universities. Some of his areas of instruction include: leadership concepts and principles, corporate management, strategic planning, research design, and organizational effectiveness.

Mitchell is the founder and President of the Double Diamond Leadership Authority, LLC, which specializes in leadership training, development, organizational consulting, and executive-level recruitment. He has authored ten books on the topic of leadership and is currently working on a book for junior leaders, a leadership theory book, and another offering in his fictional book series.

“We must never forget those that have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our country and our communities,” says Mitchell Waite. This scholarship will assist family members that are left behind and desire to pursue post high school education.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a public or parochial high school in Wood County, or graduating senior homeschool or virtual school student who resides in Wood County

o Family member of a firefighter, police officer, emergency medical services (EMS) or military member, with preference to a student of a family member lost in the line of duty

o Preference may be given to a student pursuing a career in fire service, law enforcement or EMS

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: Applicant will answer questions related to 1) family member name; 2) relationship to applicant; 3) type of service; 4) whether family member is alive or deceased; 4A) if alive, whether family member was injured in the line of duty; 4B) if deceased, whether family member was injured in the line of duty and/or lost in the line of duty

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Decribe what public service means to you..

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Double Diamond Leadership Public Service Scholarship

Description

This fund was established in 2004 by Mitchell R. Waite while he was working as the Fire Marshal with the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department. Mitchell had over 26 years in the fire service, retiring as Fire Chief in 2011. He also had a 42 year military career, retiring as a commissioned officer (Colonel) in the U.S. Army Reserve. Since retiring from the military, he has become a member of Team Rubicon and a FEMA Reservist to continue to serve and assist those in need in the wake of a disaster anywhere around the world.

Dr. Waite earned his doctoral degree from Walden University in Applied Management and Decision Sciences, with a specialization in Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness. He has also been a visiting professor for over 37 years and instructs traditional, online, and blended courses for several colleges and universities. Some of his areas of instruction include: leadership concepts and principles, corporate management, strategic planning, research design, and organizational effectiveness.

Mitchell is the founder and President of the Double Diamond Leadership Authority, LLC, which specializes in leadership training, development, organizational consulting, and executive-level recruitment. He has authored ten books on the topic of leadership and is currently working on a book for junior leaders, a leadership theory book, and another offering in his fictional book series.

“We must never forget those that have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our country and our communities,” says Mitchell Waite. This scholarship will assist students pursuing a career in public service that may have been left behind by a family member who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Criteria

o Continuing technical college, college or non-traditional student who resides in Wood County

o Pursuing a career in fire service, law enforcement or emergency medical services (EMS)

o Preference may be given to a family member of a firefighter, police officer, EMS or military member, with preference to a student of a family member lost in the line of duty

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; preference may be given to an accredited Wisconsin school

o Prior recipients may reapply

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER, if applicable: Applicant will answer questions related to 1) family member name; 2) relationship to applicant; 3) type of service; 4) whether family member is alive or deceased; 4A) if alive, whether family member was injured in the line of duty; 4B) if deceased, whether family member was injured in the line of duty and/or lost in the line of duty

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Decribe what public service means to you..

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Alex C. Dove Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Alex C. Dove Memorial Scholarship Fund was created in memory of Alex Dove who passed away in 2019 at the age of 24 from brain cancer. Before his illness, Alex was a thriving young man who loved the outdoors. Alex spent many weekends at his family cabin in Rhinelander Wisconsin. His favorite pass time was working on cars and trucks. He loved to tinker with engines.

Alex was attending UW Whitewater when he became ill. With his strength and positive attitude, Alex graduated in 2017 with a double major in Accounting and Business Management.As a 2012 graduate of Lincoln High School, Alex's legacy lives on through this memorial scholarship.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School or John Edwards High School

o Pursuing a career in accounting, finance or an automotive field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at one of the following two- or four-year accredited institutions: Mid-State Technical College, UW-Whitewater or Nicolet College

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Betty and Bernell Dye Pittsville Memorial Scholarship

Description

Betty and Bernell Dye were raised in central Wisconsin. Bernell worked at Consolidated Papers, Inc. for 31 years in the Kraft Division where he held the position of maintenance supervisor. Betty was a cook and volunteer for the Nekoosa School District. This scholarship was established in 2004 by their children.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Pittsville High School

o Minimum GPA 2.75

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates involvement in school or community volunteer activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Betty and Bernell Dye Tri-City Memorial Scholarship

Description

Betty and Bernell Dye were raised in central Wisconsin. Bernell worked at Consolidated Papers, Inc. for 31 years in the Kraft Division where he held the position of maintenance supervisor. Betty was a cook and volunteer for the Nekoosa School District. This scholarship was established in 2004 by their children.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a public or parochial high school in Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa or Port Edwards; or graduating senior of Northland Lutheran High School in Kronenwetter who resides in south Wood County area

o Minimum GPA 2.75

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates involvement in school or community volunteer activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Elks Ladies of Wisconsin Rapids Lodge #693 Scholarship

Description

The Elks Ladies scholarship will support a female student who is a graduating high school senior in south Wood County and currently participating in school or community volunteer activities. Although scholastic achievement is important, the student with a C average should be considered as strongly as the A or B student.

Criteria

o Graduating female senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Currently participating in school or community volunteer activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Fehrman Family Scholarship

Description

Cathy Fehrman was a speech and language clinician for the Wisconsin Rapids School District until her death from breast cancer in 1989. "The fund seeks to assist students who demonstrate her love for children, her desire to make a difference in the lives that she touched, and her professionalism and dedication to the career she chose and lived," says her sister, Judy Yantos.

Cathy, a 1969 graduate of Lincoln High School, had degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW-Stevens Point.

Those who knew Cathy remember her as kind-hearted, gentle, dedicated, and fun. She loved being with and helping children, especially her own Megan and Tyson. Her energy, sense of humor and love of her profession could not help but get others excited and give them hope.

This fund was established by her family and friends to provide scholarship assistance in her memory.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School, Assumption High School, John Edwards High School or Nekoosa High School

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in any area. Priority may be given to a student pursuing a career in speech pathology, teaching career in special education, or a career working with exceptional education needs, special education and/or disabled individuals.

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: If applicable, describe how you plan to work with exceptional education needs, special education and/or disabled individuals in your chosen career field.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Georgia Fenner Memorial Scholarship

Description

Georgia Fenner had been a receptionist in the student services office at Lincoln High School for six years when she died of ovarian cancer in October of 1997 at the age of 43.

In discussions with her husband, Brian, Georgia indicated her desire to establish a scholarship that would help students who set goals and know how to reach those goals.

"Georgia loved going to work every day. She wanted to help the students and always saw the positive side where others might see the negative side," says Brian.

She was an avid golfer and there is a bench with her name on it at the 10th tee box at The Ridges. "Golf was one of her passions," says Brian. Georgia was involved in everything her kids were involved in and more. Children of the couple are Courtney and Clinton. She was active in the South Wood County Youth Hockey League for many years, and worked with people around the state. She and Brian also were involved in Badger State Games.

This scholarship was funded in memory of Georgia by her family and friends.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise; service to school or community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Lynn and Ruth Feutz Education Scholarship

Description

Lynn and Ruth Feutz were teachers in the Wisconsin Rapids School District for many years. They came to Wisconsin Rapids in 1950 when Mr. Feutz started his 26-year career at Children's Choice School in the town of Grand Rapids where he taught and was principal. From 1970 to 1976, he also was principal at Grant School in Kellner. Mrs. Feutz taught third-grade students at Grove School for 20 years.

Inspired by their respective mothers who were also teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Feutz started their careers with only basic rural school teachers' training, teaching in one-room rural schools in Clark County. Over several years, they taught and raised their family, while at the same time, earning college degrees.

In their early years, both were involved in 4-H. Later, Mr. Feutz was a member of the Wisconsin Rapids Lions Club and the Grand Rapids Zoning Appeals Board. He taught many local kids to water ski at Lake Wazeecha. Both Mr. and Mrs. Feutz were members of a snowmobile club. He was still riding his snowmobile in 1999.

Throughout their 63-year marriage, the couple enjoyed traveling. They saw all of the United States and Canada, Mexico and Europe, sharing their photo slides with the community.

Mrs. Feutz died September 21, 1999, and Mr. Feutz died November 10, 2000. This scholarship was established as a lasting legacy in their names to provide assistance to students pursuing a degree in education.

Mr. and Mrs. Feutz were unwavering in their commitment to maintaining solid educational standards. They held high expectations of those they taught and are now credited by those former students with inspiring a desire to excel and reach further than might have been. They cared that their students received a quality education.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Pursuing a degree in education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university

o Primary selection criteria includes: personal character of the applicant, an excellent scholastic record, the ability to express themselves in writing

o Secondary consideration may be given to financial need

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Marion Fey Nursing Scholarship

Description

Marion Fey, a lifetime resident of the Wisconsin Rapids area, was a teacher at Nekoosa Elementary School as a young woman. She married Manuel Fey who developed a printing company here.

Mrs. Fey was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, serving in the choir and St. Cecilia Altar Guild. She served as president of St. Katherine's Guild for nine years and was chair of the antique show and sale at church for 11 years. She also was president of the United Church Women.

Mrs. Fey was past regent of AhDahWaGam and president of Riverview Hospital Auxiliary. She served on the board of UW-Stevens Point Alumni.

She was also a member of Who's Who of American Women and Citizen of the Year in Wisconsin Rapids in 1985. Mrs. Fey died at the age of 91, on October 23, 1993.

"Cousin Marion was a generous, selfless, caring, thoughtful person. She was interested in kids, enjoyed traveling, and was always interested in what others were doing," says Mary Brazeau Brown, Wisconsin Rapids.

The scholarship was established by Marion Fey in recognition of the excellent nursing care her husband received during an illness.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a career in the field of nursing

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic performance; passion for nursing career through school, community, or work activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Jim Fieber Memorial Math Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in loving memory of Jim Fieber to encourage students who wish to pursue a degree in math, specifically math education.

Jim was a math teacher for 34 years at West Junior High School in Wisconsin Rapids.

He felt strongly about the value of education and was an avid supporter of Wisconsin Rapids sports.

It was Jim's desire to establish a scholarship for the Lincoln High School Math department.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids, WI

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a career in a math-related field, with preference given to a student pursuing a degree in math education

o Must have taken math curriculum courses all four years, freshman through senior year, at Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Demonstrates promise and passion for career through school, work or community volunteer activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dr. Robert "Buck" Gill Scholarship

Description

Dr. Gill was a lifelong resident of Wisconsin Rapids, graduating from Lincoln High School in 1950. He furthered his education at UW-SP and the Northern Illinois College of Optometry, graduating in 1955. After serving in the U.S. Army medical corps, he returned to Wisconsin Rapids to open his optometry practice, "R.D. Gill OD" in 1957 which continued until his retirement in 1995.

Following Dr. Gill's death in September 2009, his family established this scholarship in his memory, to support the value he placed on higher education and to show appreciation to the community where he enjoyed living, working, and raising a family.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School who resides in the south Wood County area

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

William M. Gleue, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Description

William "Dusty" Gleue was the middle child of three, born August 18, 1950, to Bill and Kitty Gleue. The scholarship was established in 1967 when Dusty, a senior at Lincoln High School, was killed in an automobile accident.

Bill's mother gave him the nickname of Dusty before she brought him home from the hospital because she didn't want him called Junior. He was a standout on the football team and received the Channel 7 Football Award following his junior and senior years of competition. He also excelled and lettered in wrestling and was a conference champ in his weight category. "He was a scrappy wrestler," said his father.

Dusty was family-oriented and made friends easily. "There were always friends at our house," said his mother. "On game days, it wasn't unusual to have six or eight members of the football team come by at noon for a meal. We were always knee-deep in kids," said his father.

Bill Gleue Sr. was the owner of Gleue Ford, a Wisconsin Rapids car dealership founded by his uncle. Dusty worked on Saturdays cleaning up the garage. Kitty was a homemaker and worked at the Doctors Clinic. Bill and Kitty's other children are Pamela and Bob.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Participated in wrestling or football at Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic ability and strong personal character

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Barbara Schmitz Grasser Memorial Scholarship

Description

The family of Barbara Grasser established the Barbara Schmitz Grasser Memorial Scholarship in 1991 to honor the Assumption High School teacher and coach who died June 15, 1991, in Pittsburgh, where she was waiting for a multiple transplant.

For Barb, Assumption High School was her life. Barb taught biology and physical science, established and coached the Royals Pom Pon Squad, and was an integral part of the Christian Youth Mission Club (CYMC) where she instilled in her students a caring for their fellow man through various programs. Barb was instrumental in organizing the first Royal Event that was expanded from the CYMC Karnival. She received several awards for her dedication to the teaching field and to her students.

Barb Grasser was a very special lady who made a difference in the many lives she touched. She was involved and often said, "I don't have any children of my own, but the kids at Assumption are my family".

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in the field of education, with preference given for grades K-12

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon academic performance and continued pursuit of a teaching degree

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dr. Charles W. Gurtler Dental Memorial Scholarship

Description

Dr. Charles W. "Charlie" Gurtler was a highly respected practicing dentist in Wisconsin Rapids for 40 years until his retirement in 1999. His family and friends established this fund upon his death in February 2006 as a memorial to help perpetuate the profession he loved so much.

Charlie Gurtler was born on July 21, 1934 in Wisconsin Rapids. He was 71 years old when he died of natural causes at his Village of Biron home. Charlie had a long and illustrious athletic and academic career at both Lincoln High School and the University of Minnesota. He graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1958.

Charlie returned to Wisconsin Rapids and married his lifetime love, Sharon "Sherry" Gurtler. Together they raised their four children: Kerry (Gurtler) Ninneman, Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Paul R. Gurtler, and Melanie (Gurtler) Gauthier.

In addition to his highly successful dental practice, he was heavily involved in many civic, fraternal, religious, and governmental organizations which included serving on the Wood County Board of Supervisors for two decades.

"Doc really enjoyed life. He loved his wife and family very much. He enjoyed helping his patients at his dental clinic. He also loved Wisconsin Rapids and Wood County. He was a real champion of the citizen-taxpayer. He had many God-given talents that he fully shared with others. He was certainly a one-of-a-kind man who won't be forgotten any time soon," said his son.

Criteria

o College student who has earned a bachelor's degree

o Pursuing a degree in the field of dentistry

o Resident of Adams, Clark, Jackson, Juneau, Marathon, Portage, or Wood County

o Minimum GPA of 2.75

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an ADA accredited dental college in Wisconsin or University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

o Demonstrates integrity and strong work ethic

o Financial need may be a consideration

o Preference may be given to a student who is a Wood County resident, intending to pursue the dental profession as a general practitioner in Wisconsin

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Sherry Gurtler Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Description

Sherry Gurtler was a nurse at East Junior High School for 15 years until her retirement in 1996. Her family and friends established this fund upon her death in August 2002 as a memorial to perpetuate the profession she loved so much.

Sharon "Sherry" Gurtler was born June 13, 1939, in Wisconsin Rapids to Kathryn (Witte) and Elmer McNamee of Vesper. She was 63 when she died of progressive supra nuclear palsy, a disease that affects the muscles.

She had completed one year of nurses training prior to marrying Dr. Charles Gurtler on October 25, 1958. She was a full-time homemaker, raising four children until 1973, when she attended the practical nursing program at MSTC and worked for a year as a nurse at West Junior High. In 1976, she returned to nursing school in Marshfield and earned a degree as a registered nurse.

“Sherry was full of life. She enjoyed people, especially children,” said her husband, Dr. Charles Gurtler, who passed away on February 19, 2006. She enjoyed gardening, fishing, playing the piano and organ, and she loved to sing. Family gatherings were festive and full of music. The couple enjoyed dancing and could often be seen on the dance floor at Elks events. She served many organizations including Wood County Republican Women, Cub Scouts, S.S. Peter and Paul CCD, Home & School, Wisconsin Ladies Elks, and the Wisconsin Nurses Association.

Children of Sherry and Charlie Gurtler are Kerry Ninneman, Charles Gurtler Jr., Paul Gurtler, and Melanie Gauthier, along with many grandchildren.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County or a non-traditional college student who resides in the south Wood County area

o Pursuing a career in nursing

o Graduating high school student must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; non-traditional college student must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for enrollment with a minimum of 6 credit hours at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise, passion for nursing career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Leonard and LaRayne Guth Family Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in loving memory of LaRayne Guth by her husband, Leonard, and their four children, Richard, Alan, Sara, and Mary.

Leonard and LaRayne were married in 1962 and moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 1965. Leonard and LaRayne held a strong belief in education. This scholarship is for students who have a sincere desire and drive to improve themselves through higher education.

LaRayne was born in 1927 and passed away in 1989. She was a devoted stay-at-home mother. After their children grew up, she worked at Sentry Insurance and D-Mart Grocery Store. LaRayne was known for her giving nature and dedication to her church, St. Vincent de Paul, where her skill in arts and crafts provided many beautiful items for the annual church bazaar.

Leonard was born in 1923. He served in the Army Air Force from 1943-1946. Leonard graduated from UW-Madison in 1950 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After retirement, Leonard was elected to the Wood County Board of Supervisors where he served for 14 years. Leonard died on March 11, 2013, at the age of 89.

Leonard and LaRayne spent many vacations with their family and friends fishing on the lakes of Canada and enjoying their tree farm in Portage County.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption, Lincoln, or Almond High School

o Pursuing a degree in any field of study

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon academic performance

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Earl and Vivian Haefs Medical Field Scholarship

Description

Earl and Vivian Haefs of Wisconsin Rapids established a scholarship fund in their name to help benefit students from Assumption High School interested in pursuing higher education in the medical field. The first scholarships were awarded in May 2011.

The Haefs tribute their two sons' ability to achieve doctorate degrees, Dr. Kurt Haefs, O.D., (AHS '83) and Dr. Kent Haefs, O.D. (AHS '86), to the fine education emphasizing good study skills at Assumption High School. They also graduated from St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School in Wisconsin Rapids, Marquette University in Milwaukee, and Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago.

Earl, a maintenance storeroom clerk, retired from Consolidated after 43 years of service at the Biron Division. He was also a member of the Red Arrow National Guard HQ Army Division. Earl has been an Elks member for more than 50 years. Vivian taught first grade for 39 years at Washington School. Earl and Vivian were married 65 years on November 7, 2024.

They have traveled extensively with their family and friends in the states as well as abroad. In retirement, they enjoy time spent with their family, grandchildren and friends boating, downhill skiing, golfing, biking, & snowmobiling.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School who is pursuing a career in a health care related field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or techncial college

o Demonstrates passion for chosen field of study, academic potential, strong personal character, and solid work ethic

o Financial need may be a consideration

o Multi-year award based upon continued pursuit of a career in a health care field

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Earl and Vivian Haefs Trades Field Scholarship

Description

Earl and Vivian Haefs of Wisconsin Rapids established a scholarship fund in their name to help benefit students from Assumption High School interested in pursuing higher education in the medical field. The first medical field scholarships were awarded in May 2011. Looking towards the future and seeing an increased need for skilled workers in the trades field, the Haefs expanded the scholarship criteria to help benefit students interested in pursuing a career in the trades field as well, providing more students an opportunity to further their education. The first trades field scholarship was awarded in 2024.

The Haefs tribute their two sons' ability to achieve doctorate degrees, Dr. Kurt Haefs, O.D., (AHS '83) and Dr. Kent Haefs, O.D. (AHS '86), to the fine education emphasizing good study skills at Assumption High School. They also graduated from St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School in Wisconsin Rapids, Marquette University in Milwaukee, and Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago.

Earl, a maintenance storeroom clerk, retired from Consolidated after 43 years of service at the Biron Division. He was also a member of the Red Arrow National Guard HQ Army Division. Earl has been an Elks member for more than 50 years. Vivian taught first grade for 39 years at Washington School. Earl and Vivian were married 65 years on November 7, 2024.

They have traveled extensively with their family and friends in the states as well as abroad. In retirement, they enjoy time spent with their family, grandchildren and friends boating, downhill skiing, golfing, biking, & snowmobiling.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School, Edgar High School, Athens High School or John Edwards High School

o Pursuing a career in the building trades, mechanical trades, industrial trades or medical trades field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited Wisconsin techncial or vocational college

o Demonstrates passion for chosen field of study, academic potential, strong personal character, and solid work ethic

o Financial need may be a consideration

o Assumption High School applicants may be eligible for a multi-year award based upon continued pursuit of education in an eligible trades field of study

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Aloysius "Al" Hauck Engineering Scholarship

Description

Aloysius "Al" Hauck was a consulting electrical engineer at Sola Basic Industries until shortly before his death in September 1981. Prior to consulting at Sola Basic, Al had a long career as a well-respected engineer at Surges Electric Company and its successor companies, Hevi-Duty Electric, Basic Products Corporation, and Sola Basic Industries.

During his career, Al was issued seven U.S. and two Canadian patents, several of which concerned operational control of airport runway lighting. Al's creativity was not limited to his patents. The son of a carpenter, he created beautiful woodworking projects and designed and built audio amplifiers for his and others' sound systems.

Al was a Senior Life Member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, a predecessor to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He graduated from Saint John's Cathedral High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended Marquette University College of Engineering for two years but had to discontinue attendance in 1925 due to lack of funds. He continued his education through technical reading and through experimenting.

This scholarship was established by one of Al's nephews, Fred Stich, and endorsed by family members and others who were inspired to pursue engineering or technical careers because of his example.

Al Hauck was a man of faith, generosity and humility, and an inspiration to all around him by using his gifts for good.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior (or equivalent thereof), continuing college student, non-traditional college student, or past recipients are eligible to apply

o Resident of Wisconsin

o Pursuing a degree in engineering

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Record of scholastic competence and achievement

o Priority may be given to a student who needs financial assistance to complete his/her education

o Preference may be given to a student pursuing electrical engineering as a career and attending Marquette University College of Engineering

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Amy O. Hemming Scholarship

Description

Amy Hemming did not take the traditional route through college. Her scholarship fund helps support those students who may face similar circumstances.

"This scholarship is based upon my own background. I attended Winona State Teachers College working full-time and attending school part-time on weekends and at night. When I had enough credits, my teachers saw to it that I could go to school full-time and work part-time," Amy explained. "I want to be able to help someone who is working on their education and shouldn't be stopped by not having the monetary resources."

Criteria

o College student who will be completing at least one year of higher learning

o Resident of the south Wood County area

o Pursuing a degree in any field of study

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates integrity, strong work ethic, and a passion for learning

o Consideration given to student who may be facing financial constraints in continuing his/her education

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Joseph and Marion Hokamp Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in loving memory of Joseph and Marion Hokamp, lifelong residents of Wood County who left a lasting impact on their community.

Joseph was a student in the Pittsville School District, while Marion attended school in the Wisconsin Rapids School District. Together, they raised five children, all proud graduates of Lincoln High School, and instilled in them the values of hard work, education, and community service.

Remembered by many for owning and operating Hokamp's Drive-In, a beloved local business they ran for 19 years, Joseph and Marion built a life centered around their family and the community. Joseph also worked for the Wood County Highway Department, while Marion worked as a cook in the Wisconsin Rapids School District. Beyond that, Marion gave 26 years of service as a Wood County Supervisor and served on the Wisconsin Rapids City Council for 12 years. Joseph's talent and passion for restoring furniture, including the intricate art of caning, shone through in Joe's Woodshed, the shop he owned and operated for many years.

The lives of Joseph and Marion reflected a deep love of travel, an appreciation for time with friends and family, and many spirited games of sheepshead. Their commitment to the community, love for learning, and tireless work ethic continue to live on through their children and all who knew them.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln or Pittsville High School

o Pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering, arts or math (STEAM)

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university, or two-year technical or vocation college

o Demonstrates involvement in school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

George and Marlene Holland Family Baseball Scholarship

Description

George Holland graduated from UW-River Falls in 1958. The Hollands came to Nekoosa where George taught biology and driver education until his retirement in 1990. Marlene was an X-Ray technician and office manager at the Nekoosa Medical Center until her retirement in 1991. She served her community by being a member of many civic organizations and served as the past president of the Chamber of Commerce. Marlene passed away on October 13, 2018.

George coached baseball from 1959 to 1983. Nekoosa High School was the first Wisconsin team to win three consecutive state championships in 1980, 1981, and 1982. Nekoosa won 64 consecutive baseball games which is a state record and was fourth on the all-time national win list. George is a member of the Wisconsin High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, UW-River Falls Hall of Fame, Central Wisconsin Baseball Hall of Fame, and Nekoosa Wall of Fame. He was selected by his coaching peers as Wisconsin High School Baseball Coach of the Year in 1977, 1981 and 1982.

The Hollands hope this scholarship will help some worthy student to achieve his or her goals in life.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School

o Involved in the Nekoosa High School Baseball Program for a minimum of two years as a player, manager, or aide

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an institution of your choice

o Demonstrates integrity, positive attitude, and strong work ethic

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Marlene & George Holland Family Sports Scholarship

Description

Marlene Holland was an avid and constant sports supporter for Nekoosa High School. She managed the Nekoosa Medical Center for many years, was president of the Nekoosa Business Association and was very active in the community. This scholarship is in remembrance of Marlene, who passed away in 2018, and her surviving husband, George Holland, who is well known for his outstanding coaching accomplishments at Nekoosa High School.

This scholarship was established by Marlene and George's nephew, Bill Holland.

Criteria

o Graduating female senior of Nekoosa High School

o Involved in the Nekoosa High School Sports Program for a minimum of two years

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited institution of your choice

o Academically in the top 25 percent of graduating class

o Demonstrates exceptional team spirit, a positive attitude and is supportive of fellow students

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Leo Huber Scholarship

Description

Leo Huber was a successful businessman in Nekoosa where he owned a grocery store for many years. He always had a passion for Nekoosa and its residents, and was particularly interested in education and academics, and serving the schools and community.

Upon his death, a bequest through Mr. Huber's will established this scholarship to assist with the higher education of Nekoosa High School graduates.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise and service to school or community

o Participated in school sponsored athletic program or extracurricular activities

o Upholds principles of integrity and ethics; exemplifies qualities and attitudes which are a silent influence on others for good

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Incourage Opportunity Scholarship

Description

This fund was endowed in 2025 to support Incourage Community Foundation's scholarship program goals and values. We recognize that each student's path to higher education may look vastly different and that life is unpredictable. We believe that circumstances beyond a student's control should not become a barrier to their success. Through the Incourage Opportunity Scholarship, we are committed to supporting students who have navigated complex personal journeys on their path to pursuing their dreams.

If a student's academic or personal life has been significantly impacted by extenuating circumstances - such as a serious illness, family responsibilities, or a challenging living environment - we empathize by seeking to understand the applicant's story and acknowledging how he or she has responded to the challenges faced.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from a public or parochial high school in south Wood County, or graduating senior homeschool or virtual school student who resides in south Wood County

o Continuing technical college, college or non-traditional student who resides in south Wood County

o Pursuing higher education in any field of study

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Consider a personal or family extenuating circumstance that has shaped who you are. Share your story and tell us about how you've either overcome the situation or how you are still facing this challenge today. Please feel free to share how this may have affected your achievement in school, work experience, or participation in community activities. (Some examples may include, but are not limited to, major financial hardships, food insecurity, homelessness, a parent's job loss, or severe personal issues, like prolonged illness, grief, or caretaking responsibilities.)

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Roy and Lore Ingram Scholarship

Description

Roy and Lore Ingram established this fund to positively impact local students pursuing post-secondary education.

Roy served in the US Army after being drafted in 1970. He entered the Special Forces Detachment (Airborne) Europe as a Green Beret. After leaving the military he started his electrical tradesman career in Illinois and later moved to Wood County in 1996. Roy held a Master Electrician license and was owner and operator of Ingram Electric, LLC since 1983.

His wife, Lore made her 25-year library career in Pittsville, Nekoosa and Rome and was library director at the Lester Public Library of Rome 2002-2018.

Lore and Roy believed their success came from tireless dedication and a hard work ethic. They acknowledged that anyone can possess the determination and desire to better one's self through higher education and deserve a helping hand in order to achieve their career goals.

Criteria

o High school senior, continuing college student, non-traditional college student or veteran, residing in south Wood County

o Pursuing higher education in any field of study

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Demonstrates good work ethic, active involvement in community volunteer activities and dedication to continuing education

o Although scholastic achievement is important, the C stucent should be considered as strongly as the A student

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Frank and Illa Ironside Scholarship

Description

Frank Ironside owned and operated Ironside Motors in Wisconsin Rapids, which he founded in 1960. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and married Illa Cutler in 1939 in Wisconsin Rapids. He died in 1995 at the age of 87.

Mrs. Ironside taught primary grades for 37 years throughout the county, retiring from Biron Elementary School in 1976. "The primary grades are so important to children," she said. "They provide the foundation for future learning." Mrs. Ironside was a member of the Wisconsin Rapids Retired Educators Association. She enjoyed reading, poetry, and counted cross-stitch needlework. She passed away in April 2005.

Mr. Ironside enjoyed fishing and the outdoors. He was a lifetime charter member of the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, member of the Wisconsin Conservation Club, Wisconsin Tree Farm, Consolidated Tree Farm Family, National Rifle Association, and Ducks Unlimited.

This scholarship was originally established as a memorial to Frank by his wife, family and friends.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption or Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in primary education (K-5)

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise and passion for teaching field through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Albert J. Jensen Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in loving memory of Albert J. Jensen, former Mayor of Nekoosa, WI, by his wife, Carol.

Al was the oldest of five children. After his parents separated during his childhood, his siblings went to live with an uncle while Al was raised by Roy Olson's family on their Arkdale dairy farm.

In 1953, he married Carol Mann, and together they made their home in Nekoosa, raising four children: Larry, Garry, Barry and Sherry. Their family grew to include seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Al worked in the Finishing Department and Maintenance Department of Nekoosa Papers' Port Edwards Mill, retiring in 1985. He was elected to serve as Alderman for Nekoosa's Third Ward and also served eight years as Mayor.

A strong supporter of of Nekoosa athletics, Al attended nearly every home game and many away games too. He was affectionately known as the "Popsicle Man" who brought popsicles to team practices, especially during hot weather.

Al believed in giving back to his community. This scholarship honors his life, service, and spirit of generosity by supporting the educational goals of local students.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates involvement in school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Richard "Dick" Kane Memorial Scholarship

Description

Richard Kane was a principal electrical engineer at Blue Chip Engineering in Plover, at the time of his sudden death on May 24, 2006. Previously, Dick completed a 25-year career in the corporate engineering department at Consolidated Papers, Inc. He was instrumental in the early application of programmable logic controllers into the Consolidated control systems and was well known for his strong technical skills and knowledge of DC and AC drive systems.

Dick also worked at Commonwealth Edison, Wisconsin Power & Light, Q-Comp, Inc., and Rapids Control Systems. Dick was an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Industry Applications Society, Pulp and Paper Industry Committee, and Drives and Controls Committee. He participated in papers as an author and panel participant.

Dick graduated from Assumption High School and the Milwaukee School of Engineering. This scholarship was established by his wife, Jill, and children, John, Paul, and Laura.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in electrical, mechanical or civil engineering

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Officer Bill Kautzer Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Officer Bill Kautzer Memorial Scholarship was developed to honor the life of Bill Kautzer. Bill was a Nekoosa Police Officer for 26 years and the Nekoosa School District Liaison Officer. He was known to all Nekoosa youth as "Officer Bill", and served as a powerful and positive role model and mentor in many of the youth's lives.

A graduate of Nekoosa High School, athletics was important to Bill. He was inducted into the Nekoosa Hall of Fame for achievements in football, basketball, and baseball. He was an All-State Pitcher his senior year. After graduation, Bill was drafted by the Chicago White Sox organization in which he played professional ball for four years.

Bill's commitment to the youth of the community extended far beyond his work setting. He was the Nekoosa High School Varsity Softball Coach for eight years and coached nine to 12 year old girls' softball and basketball teams for nine years. Bill could guide others in a funny, yet disciplined way, remain enthusiastic and positive, and in turn made others believe in themselves and succeed.

Bill strongly believed in volunteerism and commitment to the community. He was a board member of Incourage for three years, former Lion's Club member, and an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He was also a member of many fundraising committees to benefit Nekoosa throughout his adult life.

However, Bill's greatest compassion and commitment was for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and his family – his wife Nancy, their three daughters, and grandchildren. He lost his battle for life on January 11, 2015 to brain cancer. He fought this disease with dignity, selflessness, and determination. This scholarship will help to keep his spirit alive.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Exhibit personal qualities of: compassion, positive role model, volunteerism, sense of humor, commitment to school/community, good work ethic, and leadership

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Mary Elizabeth Kellogg Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship is given in memory of Mary Elizabeth by her mother, Jessica Wilson. Mary died of polio on August 30, 1955, at the age of 12.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior, previous high school graduate, or student who will have earned a GED or HSED certificate before the start of the current year fall semester

o Member of an Episcopal Church, with preference given as follows:

1. Member of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Wisconsin Rapids, WI
2. Child or grandchild of a member or a present or former clergy of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, who also is a member of an Episcopal Church
3. Member of a congregation of the Diocese of Fond du Lac within the Wisconsin River Deanery
4. Member of a congregation of the Diocese of Fond du Lac

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Prior recipients may reapply

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: Please provide the name of the Episcopal Church that you are a member of, and the city and state in which it's located. If you are a child or grandchild of a member of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, please include your parent's and/or grandparent's name(s) that are members of this particular church.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

David A. Kempfert Memorial Scholarship

Description

David A. Kempfert was a lifelong resident of Wisconsin Rapids. Throughout his career, he worked in the manufactured home business. In 1974, he became sales manager for Terrace Homes in Adams-Friendship. In 1992, he was hired by Wisconsin Homes in Marshfield and worked as their general manager until his retirement. He was instrumental in the organization of the Wisconsin Modular Homes Association, where he worked with local and state government in developing standards of construction for manufactured homes.

David liked hunting, fishing and sharing his Packer tickets. He enjoyed travel with his family and friends and looked forward to spending time with his granddaughter, Azure.

This scholarship was established by David's son, Troy, and daughter, Jodi Kempfert-Jones.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a degree in pre-medicine

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Kinsey Family Scholarship, in memory of Karen Kinsey

Description

This scholarship was initiated by Karen Kinsey in 1984. At that point she was a stay-at-home mom, community volunteer and a sports enthusiast. She was a very modest individual who had lived in Wisconsin Rapids all her life. She was privileged with good fortune due the success of the community. It was her desire to give back to the community that had given her so much. She decided to invest in Wisconsin Rapids and the youth of this community by creating a scholarship fund. She had a strong attraction to individuals that were good people and as she always said "A diamond in the rough just waiting to be discovered". This scholarship is made possible by the Kinsey family with Karen's wishes in mind.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o GPA between 3.00-3.50

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates integrity

o Financial need may be a consideration

o Preference may be given to a student who has not received other scholarship awards

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon academic performance

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Kiss-Hartman Scholarship

Description

Louis Kiss was one of 10 children in his family. He was born in Hungary in 1896 to peasant parents and came to America in 1921 after having learned the tailoring and pattern-making trades and serving in World War I for Hungary. In 1925, he married his wife Cunegunda, known to most as "Gundy".

They lived briefly in New Jersey, New York and Chicago before arriving in Wisconsin Rapids in 1925 to work in the Latin Clothing Factory. He became a U.S. citizen in 1926, also the year of his daughter Margaret's birth. Kiss began his own custom tailoring business in Wisconsin Rapids, later specializing in leather and fur. He died in 1986 at the age of 90. "Gundy" Kiss died in 1981.

The scholarship fund was established by Margaret Kiss-Hartman in honor of her parents.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Pursuing a career in the skilled trades. Examples would include but not be limited to: welding, automotive technology, pipefitting, instrumentation, etc.

o Demonstrates academic promise

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Emily Klopotek Memorial Scholarship

Description

This memorial scholarship was established in loving memory of Emily Klopotek by Emily's family, along with many friends and community members who provided support to her family at the time of Emily's passing. Emily loved to dance and the joy she felt when dancing could be seen in her beautiful smile. Emily was always ready to help someone (or some animal) in need and often lifted others up with her puns or genuine words of encouragement. She volunteered her time at the local animal shelter, worked at a therapeutic horse ranch during a church mission trip, and helped organize blood drives at Lincoln High School. Emily planned to pursue a career in health sciences.

Emily worked hard to manage her own mental health challenges which began at age 12. She balanced appointments and the work involved in treatment, while her studies remained a priority. She had been accepted at several colleges at the time of her death and was on track to graduate with honors.

Criteria

o Graduating senior at Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical school

o Demonstrates a passion for performing or fine arts through extracurricular activities or other pursuits

o Demonstrates a spirit of helping others

o Strong consideration may be given to a candidate who has worked to manage mental health challenges either personally or through supporting others

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Carl C. and Anna Knudsen Scholarship

Description

Carl Knudsen and his wife, Anna, established this scholarship for Lincoln High School students through their last will and testament in 1972. Born in Thisted, Denmark on April 14, 1883, Knudsen came to the United States in 1904. He became a U.S. citizen in 1910 while living in Iowa. He married Anna Nielsen in Chicago on April 2, 1913.

Mr. Knudsen came to Wisconsin Rapids in 1912 and for several years, he worked as a foreman for Rued Manufacturing Co., and later operated the Knudsen-Hill Dredge Co. He owned and operated Knudsen's Service Station on First Avenue South from 1923 until his retirement in 1939. In 1936, he assisted in establishing the Wisconsin Furniture Co.

He ran for and won election to the city council in 1936 and the mayor's office in 1948 and 1950, and became the city's first full-time mayor in 1952.

"My father loved the south Wood County area and wanted to provide the opportunity for young people to pursue academic goals. He and my mother would be pleased to know that this award has helped so many children thus far and will continue on a permanent legacy to the Knudsen name," says his son, Carl Knudsen of Mauston.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college, pursuing a minimum of a two-year degree

o Strong personal character

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon academic performance

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Donald J. Krohn Family Scholarship

Description

Don Krohn, a gifted writer and photographer, valued education. His work in public relations, the newspaper industry, and working with the media, gave him an appreciation for communication and the arts.

Don was a proud lifelong resident of south Wood County. A tireless volunteer, Don believed in giving back to his community. Whether as a volunteer firefighter, Chamber of Commerce member, coordinating art exhibits at the Alexander House, or sharing a craft of tree farming, Don found a way to draw others into service as well. He was an original member of the group now known as Incourage, and believed it was important to leave the world a better place for others.

Following his death in 2012, his family established this scholarship to support those with a gift for turning a phrase, a penchant for creative arts, and a commitment to community service.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior of John Edwards High School, Nekoosa High School or Lincoln High School, with preference given to a graduating senior of John Edwards High School or a student living in the Port Edwards School District.

o Pursuing a degree in one of the following areas: English, Communication Arts, Journalism, English Education, or Fine Arts

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates involvement in school and community; passion for career through work, school, and community activities

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Lacey Laskowski Memorial Scholarship

Description

Lacey is loved by many and she loved them back, through her giving spirit and love for others. Lacey gifted many with her homemade quilts and would cook great meals for as many friends and family as possible. She was also an avid pool player and personally knew many of the professional players as she traveled the United States for her job at Jacoby Custom Cue.

Lacey's move back to Wisconsin Rapids brought a gleam back to her eyes when she joined the coaching staff at Lincoln High School cheer and stunt team. Her time as a cheerleader in high school and college were the proudest times in her life. Even in illness, she cared about their performance in competitions and was so proud when the girls presented her with the cheer stick from one of their camps. Lacey passed away in 2010 at age 25, after a courageous battle with cancer and her spirit, energy and heart are greatly missed.

This memorial scholarship was established in loving memory by Lacey's family, along with friends and community members who continue to honor her memory with their support.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from Assumption, Lincoln, John Edwards (Port Edwards) or Nekoosa High School

o Pursuing a four-year degree in Athletic Training

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates a helping, caring attitude and a passion towards family and the importance of family through extracurricular activities or other pursuits

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Lincoln High School Achievement Award

Description

The scholarship was established to benefit graduating seniors of Lincoln High.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates commitment to academics and involvement in school activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Lincoln High School Alumni Scholarship

Description

The scholarship was established by alumni of Lincoln High School. It will benefit graduating seniors of LHS who have demonstrated their commitment to academics and involvement in school activities.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates commitment to academics and involvement in school activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Marcouex Family Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Marcouex family has struggled with many different addictions and mental health problems over the years. This memorial scholarship is to honor Tina, Tamika, and Trequelle, who sadly lost their battle. The family is still working to overcome the hardships in life and break the cycle. By starting this memorial scholarship fund, they hope that they can inspire youth whom have had similar difficulties in their life to take the next step to better themselves.

Trequelle Vann-Marcouex attended River Cities High School, but unfortunately never got the chance to graduate. He loved working with numbers and was naturally good with math and hoped to someday become a CPA. He was a handsome, smart, young man, with a heart of gold and a big smile. Tre was very protective of his loved ones. He cherished his niece and six nephews. Tre enjoyed listening to music and playing Fortnite.

Tamika Marcouex-Graves graduated from River Cities High School in 2013, at the age of 17. She was a beautiful, intelligent young woman, who had become a young, loving mother, at the age of 16. Tamika had struggled with many things throughout her life, including mental illness, teen pregnancy/parenting, death of her 4 1/2-month-old daughter on February 25, 2017, and drug addiction. She had discovered a passion for caring for people with disabilities and began working in the home health care field. Tamika tragically lost her battle, and unexpectedly passed away, August 18, 2017, three weeks before her 21st birthday, leaving behind two beautiful children, three younger brothers, a Mom, a Dad, and many family and friends who loved her, and miss her every day.

Tina Marcouex, was a loving mother of two who cherished living in the moment and spending time with her loved ones. She was an upbeat and social person who enjoyed camping, fishing, and spending time with her family and friends. Unfortunately, Tina lost her battle at age 44.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from River Cities High School, Nekoosa Academy, Assumption High School, John Edwards High School, Lincoln High School or Nekoosa High School, or a non-traditional student that is a current resident of Wood County, with preference given to a graduating senior from River Cities High School or Nekoosa Academy

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Strong consideration may be given to a candidate who has worked to manage mental health challenges either personally or through supporting others

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Please share how you have been affected by mental health or illness, or how you have cared for someone that has been affected by mental health or illness.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Kevin Edward Marth Memorial Scholarship

Description

From a young age, Kevin displayed a love of learning, whether it be self taught or through formal education. His determination and hard work served him well over the years, as he was named co-valedictorian of the 1981 graduating class of Nekoosa High School. In 1985, Kevin received a Bachelors degree in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, and two years later, a Masters degree from Ohio State University. In 2014, while working full time in his field, Kevin earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Computer Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Even after being awarded his PhD, Kevin continued to build on his existing skills and knowledge. He prided himself on being a lifelong learner.

This scholarship fund has been established in Kevin's memory by his family following his sudden death on August 28, 2023. It is the family's hope to honor his love of learning, while also providing an opportunity for the scholarship receipients to further their education and pursue a career in a computer science field.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from a public or parochial high school in the south Wood County area, graduating senior homeschool student who resides in the south Wood County area, graduating senior from Waupaca High School, or continuing college student who graduated from an eligible high school; preference may be given to a current graduating high school senior

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM), with preference given to a student pursuing a career in a computer science field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year Wisconsin college or university; preference may be given to a student attending UW-Eau Claire

o Demonstrates involvement in school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o Prior recipients may reapply

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Mel Massa and Sallie Wylie Memorial Scholarship

Description

Mel Massa was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, and proudly served his country for 26 years in the Marines and Army National Guard. He moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 1996 and was an active union member of the National Association of Letter Carriers for 30 years. Mel believed strongly in working to better the community, his workplace, and his country. He was always teaching, whether it was his fellow union members, young medics in the military, or children.

Sallie Wylie was born and raised in Wisconsin Rapids. She spent her life in pursuit of justice and equality. She served in many leadership positions throughout her 30-year United States Postal Services career and in the National Association of Letter Carriers union. Sallie served as the first female president of the NALC Wisconsin State Association and served as a regional facilitator.

Sallie and Mel met through the National Association of Letter Carriers union. Together, they continued their advocacy work with positions on the Wisconsin Rapids Central Labor Council and through their work at various community events.

Education and learning were important to both Mel and Sallie, and they used every opportunity to continue to learn and grow. This scholarship honors their work and legacy, and is an educational investment in our youth.

Criteria

o Graduating senior or non-traditional college student who is a graduate of a high school in south Wood County or Lincoln High School in Lincoln, Nebraska

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Historically, labor unions have played a major role in America's working class. Please share your thoughts on labor unions' influence in your community and what you see as the role of unions in the future.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Lee and Pat McCarville Memorial Scholarship

Description

Lee McCarville, originally from Lancaster, Wisconsin, was one of eleven children. He moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 1953 as an employee of Thorp Finance. Lee was working at Consolidated Papers, Inc. Consoweld Division when he died on December 1, 1979, at the age of 46.

Lee was a tremendous athlete excelling in football, swimming, baseball, and golf. He also managed Tri-City Golf Course from 1969 until the time of his death. During those same years, Lee oversaw the City Golf Tournament which was a huge success. Combining his love of people (especially children) and golf, Lee helped many people, of all capabilities, learn and improve at the game of golf. He found ways for the less fortunate to be able to play. He always enjoyed golfing with family and friends. He was a mentor to many during his lifetime. Proceeds from a memorial golf outing held at The Ridges each year supports the scholarship fund and the youth of the south Wood County area.

Lee was a devoted husband to Pat and a loving father to his sons, Brad and Dan. This scholarship is a great way to perpetuate his giving. A bronze plaque dedicated to him by his friends after his death simply states, “He gave so much and asked so little”.

When Lee died in 1979, Dan was a freshman at Assumption High School. On several occasions, when it was time to pay tuition, the school would inform the family that an anonymous donor had already paid it. The McCarville family believes that this scholarship is a great way to say thank you to the anonymous person and “pay it forward”.

Pat McCarville passed away December 22, 2019 at the age of 85. After high school, she worked for Newton's women's clothing store as a clerk and a model. Pat was an accomplished bowler and enjoyed playing golf as well, especially in the evenings when she could take her time and enjoy being out with her family. Her true dedication was to her family, and she stayed at home to make sure her boys had everything they needed, which they always did. Her world was upended with the loss of Lee. Forced to go back to work, she approached Bull's Eye Country Club and convinced them to hire her to manage Tri-City Golf Course. Pat was able to continue the legacy that Lee had built there and developed a tremendous rapport with her customers. Pat managed Tri-City until 2003. Pat then took a job at The Ridges where she ended her career.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption, John Edwards, Lincoln, Nekoosa, or Pittsville High School

o Primary consideration will be given to a student who has been involved in the sport of golf – recreationally, participating on a golf team, or as an employee of a golf course

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe how golf has allowed you to positively influence someone’s life OR how the game of golf has positively impacted your life.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Helen Mead Veterinary Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by Helen Mead to benefit a student pursuing secondary education in the veterinarian medical field. Helen Mead always had a strong love for animals and a concern for their health and welfare. She was a strong supporter of the Wisconsin Rapids Area Zoo and the South Wood County Humane Society.

Criteria

o Resident of Adams, Portage, or Wood County

o Pursuing a degree as a veterinarian or veterinary technician

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited veterinary program

o Demonstrates a genuine love for animals through extracurricular activities, work experience, or other community activities

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

MEUW Powering Futures Electric Lineworker Scholarship

Description

Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) exists to strengthen and unify community-owned utilities, and it is increasingly difficult for those utilities to attract qualified workers to the stable, well-paying and local careers available as a public power lineworker.

Electric utility lineworkers are vitally important to their communities because they perform essential services that keep the lights on. Lineworkers maintain and construct electric distribution systems, to ensure the reliability of the electric system. They perform many different tasks, including climbing poles or operating aerial lift devices to work on overhead lines 25 to 200 feet above the ground or digging trenches to string underground electric cable. Lineworkers also respond to outages and emergencies to help restore power in a safe and efficient way.

Recognizing the need to continue growing the field of qualified lineworkers required to sustain public power in Wisconsin, MEUW established the "Powering Futures" scholarship fund to support the next generation of electric lineworkers and accomplish the association's goal of strengthening community-owned utilities.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior, continuing college student, technical college student, or non-traditional college student residing in one of over 80 Wisconsin communities operating an electric utility - visit MEUW.org/communities for a list

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for enrollment at an accredited technical college

o Pursuing post-secondary education in an Electrical Power Distribution program with aspirations for a career as a Field Service Technician, Groundman, Lineman Apprentice, Electric Meter Technician, Substation Electrician Apprentice or Utility Technician

o Demonstrates integrity, strong work ethic, and a passion for the community through school and work-related activities

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: Please provide the name of the electric utility that serves your home residence.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Mid-Towne Dental Associates Community Education Scholarship

Description

Mid-Towne Dental Associates SC created these scholarships to assist and support students in entering the health care field.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in Adams-Friendship, Nekoosa, Port Edwards, or Wisconsin Rapids

o Pursuing a career in any health care related field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates integrity, strong work ethic, and a passion for learning

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Ruth and Ray Moody Family Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by Ruth Moody in memory of her husband, Ray, to support scholarships for students who have been medically certified with the condition of dyslexia. According to Ruth, dyslexia is a term that has been loosely applied to reading disabilities. "The brain does not understand what the eyes see," says Ruth. "People with dyslexia see things differently from the rest of us, but we don't know what they are seeing."

Through this scholarship, the family hopes to help people diagnosed with dyslexia and teach others about the disability.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Medically certified with the condition of dyslexia

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Andrew Mueller Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Andrew Mueller Memorial Scholarship was established in loving memory of Andrew Mueller, who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 20 in November 2024 from an undiagnosed peanut allergy. From a very early age, Andrew was drawn to trucks of all kinds. As he grew older, that fascination grew into a genuine passion for the trucking and heavy equipment industry. He pursued his CDL and immediately went to work for a local trucking company, excited to begin building a career in an industry he loved. His dream was to become more involved in heavy equipment, where he could combine his love of machinery with the hands-on work he enjoyed so much. Andrew took pride in what he did, loved learning, and found happiness in being around and operating equipment.

Andrew's family established this scholarship to honor his passion and to help another young person pursue a career they love. The scholarship will support students entering a skilled trade, with preference given to those pursuing careers in heavy equipment operation, trucking, or construction fields. Additional consideration may be given to students pursuing careers as first responders. The Mueller family hopes this scholarship will help students who share Andrew's enthusiasm for hands-on work, demonstrate a strong work ethic, and have a genuine passion for their chosen trade or career.

Although Andrew's life was far too short, his passion and the joy he found in his work will continue through this scholarship. His unexpected passing also inspired his family to advocate for greater access to epinephrine and to recognize the vital role first responders play when seconds matter. This scholarship honors Andrew by helping another young person build a future doing what they love, while carrying forward the passion, determination, and spirit that made Andrew so special.

Criteria

o Graduating senior from Assumption High School, Lincoln High School, John Edwards High School, Nekoosa High School, Nekoosa Academy or River Cities High School, graduating homeschool or virtual school senior who resides in the tri-city area (Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards, Nekoosa) or a student who resides in the tri-city area and have delayed enrollment in post-secondary education for up to seven academic years

o Pursuing a a career in an eligible trades field, such as the construction/building trades, manufacturing/industrial trades or transportation trades, or as First Responders; preference may be given to a student pursuing a career in heavy equipment operation, trucking or construction

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance as a full-time or part-time student at an accredited post-secondary institution in a two-year degree program or a one-year certificate program

o Although scholastic achievement is important, the C or D student should be considered as strongly as the A or B student

o Financial need may be considered

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dave Murgatroyd Memorial Scholarship

Description

Dave "Murgy" Murgatroyd was a lifelong resident of Wisconsin Rapids. With his parents, John and Auril Murgatroyd, he designed, built and maintained The Ridges Golf Course. Dave was truly a caring man who touched the lives of all he knew. He believed in a strong work ethic. He was a devoted husband and father to his wife, Gloria, and daughters, Ann, Crystal and Mary Ann, as well as to his extended family and friends.

Dave was also highly respected by his golf industry colleagues and was active in the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. He served as Secretary/Treasurer for the WGCSA and was recognized in the golf industry as a seasoned veteran. His willingness to lend a helping hand was extended to his peers as well.

Dave's life ended tragically in 1999 as a result of an auto accident. Family and friends established this scholarship in honor of Dave's memory and to continue his dedication to others.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln or Assumption High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; pursuing a minimum of a two-year degree

o Demonstrates academic promise; service to school and community; involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer organizations and activities

o Involvement in golf as well as financial need may be considered

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Andrew Neitzel "Freak Flag" Scholarship

Description

Andrew Neitzel loved music, poetry and performing arts. He also painted and worked with clay. He lived his life as an individual and was always willing to help other people of his age in any way he could. He was a friend to everybody and everybody was somebody to him, regardless of any faults they might have had.

Andrew started his band at age 14 and had written 17 songs that the group performed at local establishments. The writing and performing of these songs was accomplished before he and his band members turned 18 years old.

Andrew's poetry is featured in Lincoln High School's 2007 and 2008 editions of Bloodstone. His songs and poetry championed the human spirit, addressed life's ups and downs, and encouraged people to "love what is unique to you". His poem "Freak Flag" says it all. "Do the best you can and you get what you give and be kind to one another." All pretty insightful for such a young man.

Andrew lost his life in a tragic auto accident on May 3, 2008, at the age of 18. He would be very happy to know that a memorial scholarship will help other young people reach their goals in the world of fine arts, and enable them to fly their own Freak Flag.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a career in the performing, visual, or written arts field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at a college, university, technical college, or arts institution

o Preference may be given to a student pursuing performing or visual arts

o Strong consideration given to a student who has demonstrated spirit of a caring and helping attitude

o GPA is not a consideration

o Demonstrates passion for the arts through school involvement and extracurricular activities as expressed through essay

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Gladys R. Nelson Memorial Scholarship

Description

Gladys Nelson was an educator all her life, both in the classroom and to her five children. She was also active in the Moravian Church.

Mrs. Nelson was a graduate of Lincoln High School and the Wisconsin Teachers College in Stevens Point. She taught in Necedah and wrote textbooks in Texas before returning to Wisconsin Rapids to raise her family.

She was a first grade teacher at Mead School from 1963 until 1986. She died in 1987.

"My mother loved to teach. She said when the students entered her classroom the first day of school they were kindergartners and when they left at the end of the school year they were big first graders," says her son, Michael Nelson.

Innovations in her classroom often included a teepee or carpeted bathtub where students could go for quiet time. She encouraged her students to listen to music through headphones and invited community people into her classroom to read to the students.

The fund, established by her children, provides assistance to a student pursuing a degree in education.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise; passion for teaching career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Thomas Newman and Susan Holly-Newman Memorial Scholarship

Description:

Tom Newman and Sue Holly-Newman were long time residents of Wisconsin Rapids and both had careers that involved working with and helping young people reach their full potential. Tom's career in the educational field included working for Cooperative Educational Service Agency 5 (CESA-5), establishing guidance programs at small schools in his region. He also worked a few years as an elementary/middle school guidance counselor. Sue began her career at Wausau East High School before her marriage to Tom, and then continued at Lincoln High School as a high school guidance counselor for 28 years. Both believed strongly in higher education and were advocates for those who experienced and overcame life obstacles or did something to make a positive difference in their community.

This scholarship fund was established to provide scholarship assistance in memory of Sue and Tom. It is the family's wish that it will commemorate their commitment to teaching, counseling and influencing students for years to come.

Criteria:

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School or continuing college student who graduated fom Lincoln High School; preference may be given to a current graduating Lincoln High School senior

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a teaching or counseling career in K-12 education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates involvement in extracurricular activities and service to school and community, with preference given to an applicant who exemplifies kindness and compassion

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Ned C. Norton Memorial Scholarship

Description

Ned Norton was a biologist and wildlife manager, serving as vice president for Northland Cranberries, Inc. until the time of his death in 1993 at the age of 43.

He worked for the Department of Natural Resources for many years and was well known in the field of wildlife management. He was superintendent of the Sand Hill Wildlife Area in Necedah and was instrumental in setting up the study skills center that continues today.

"Throughout his personal and professional life, Ned valued his family and nature. He would be pleased that a legacy of this type is being passed on," says his wife Patricia.

This fund was established by his wife, Patricia, and children, Elizabeth and Charles.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Pursuing a career in the field of natural resources area with an emphasis in, but not limited to wildlife management; primary consideration will be given to a student who exhibits/shares the same passion for and knowledge of the field of natural resources and the environment that Ned C. Norton did during his lifetime

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates passion for career choice through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Duane and Valerie Nygaard Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established to honor Valerie's grandparents, Olaf and Ella M. Olson. Olaf, a Norwegian immigrant, attended college in Milwaukee during the early 1900s. He later returned to his home in Waupaca County where he and Ella farmed and raised their family.

Olaf never lost his interest in education. He served on the board of the local school district where he and Ella were active participants in promoting education.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County, with preference to a non-traditional college student or continuing college student

o Prior recipients may reapply

o Resident of the south Wood County area

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in teaching

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for enrollment of a minimum of six credits per semester at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates integrity, strong work ethic, and a passion for the teaching field

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Coach Daniel O'Connell Memorial Scholarship

Description

Daniel O'Connell was the assistant coach of the Lincoln High School Varsity Baseball team from 2017 until 2024 when he lost his 18 year courageous battle with cancer. Despite his long battle with cancer, Dan lived a life focusing on positivity and optimism, and this showed in the way he helped others.

Dan found so much joy in sharing his love of the game and the lessons it taught both on and off the field, to not only his children and grandchildren, but for ALL youth, no matter their skill level. Dan had a knack for bringing out the best in kids and always stressed the fundamentals, to focus on the "little things," and most importantly to smile and have fun! He also coached Rudolph Girls Softball, Rudolph Little League, South Wood County Cardinals, and any youth that was willing to learn.

After summers spent at the ballpark, Dan spent his fall traveling to Iowa with his family and friends to once again "coach", the next generation of pheasant hunters. He loved the time he could spend outdoors. Over the years, Dan also ensured that countless youth were able to enjoy hunting by being a mentor on the family's hunting land.

Dan had a career in conservation for 35 years. He could be found most spring mornings scouting for the Greater Prairie Chickens for the annual census and in the summer eradicating invasive species, but his passion was once again "coaching" youth at local schools about the importance of conservation.

This memorial scholarship was established as a way for Dan to continue to give back to youth for many years to come.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of public or parochial high school in the south Wood County area, graduating senior homeschool student that resides in the south Wood County area, or a continuing college or technical college student that resides in the south Wood County area

o Minimum 3.0 GPA

o Preference may be given to a student pursuing a career in the field of conservation

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Demonstrates involvement in school, work, athletic, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o Demonstrated leadership skills, with preference given to a student who has mentored youth

o Demonstrated interest in athletics, hunting and conservation practices

o Financial need will be a consideration

o UNIQUE ESSAY: How has a coach or mentor impacted your career or life choices?

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Brian and Bev O'Donnell Memorial Scholarship

Description

Brian O'Donnell, aka "Coach", was a high school guidance counselor and football coach at Assumption High School as well as alumni. He was a believer in following your dreams even after a college football injury landed him wheelchair bound. While in the hospital for his injury he fell in love and married his nurse, Bev. He continued his college education and completed his masters in counseling. He was an inspiration to all, particularly the students at Assumption High School...no one got away without discussing plans after graduation even if he had to chase you down the school hallway.

Bev was a valuable part of the community as well. While she supported her husband Brian in daily life and by attending football games he was coaching, she was always looking for ways to help others. As an Oncology nurse she organized several support groups for patients fighting cancer and their families where she inevitably became family too. Bev had the most important component of a nurse, compassion. No one would ever suffer alone.

This scholarship honors Brian and Bev's dedication to their field and the Wisconsin Rapids community and supports youth pursuing further education with similar career goals.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids, WI

o Minimum 2.50 GPA

o Pursuing a career in education, counseling or nursing

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Must be actively involved in high school athletics and extracurricular activities

o Although scholastic achievement is important, the B or C+ student should be considered as strongly as the A student

o Financial need will be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

T.P. Olson Engineering Scholarship

Description

Theodore Power Olson was born in Wisconsin Rapids in 1934, and graduated from UW-Madison School of Engineering in 1956. He was a mechanical engineer and the third-generation owner of Nekoosa Corporation, a manufacturing business started in Nekoosa by his grandfather. He took tremendous pride in building the business and earned his reputation as being an honest and fair employer. At the time of his death in 2003, he was CEO of Nekoosa Corporation and vice president of DuBay Cranberry Co.

Ted was active in many business and social organizations during his lifetime, including foundry and papermaking associations, Nekoosa-Port Edwards State Bank, City Point Cranberries, Ltd., City Point Hunting Lodge, and Up River Gun Club. Over the years, he flew small aircraft and enjoyed bird hunting, tennis, biking, downhill skiing, black jack, and trap shooting.

Ted is missed enormously by those who knew him well and is remembered for his extraordinary command of the English language, his sharp wit and well-rounded sense of humor, his instigation of many practical jokes, his delight in magic from a young age, and a firm handshake that could bring you to your knees. But perhaps above all, "T.P." will always be remembered for his generosity, his great love of people, and the twinkle in his blue eyes.

The award was created by Ted's family from gifts made in memory of T.P. Olson.

Criteria

o Resident of the south Wood County area

o Second-year or higher college student

o Pursuing an engineering career

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year U.S. college or university

o Preference may be given to an engineering student at UW-Madison

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Wilbur C. Ott Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Wilbur C. Ott Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established by his grandchildren to honor the life and legacy of a man whose values were rooted in hard work, family, and community.

Born and raised in Vesper, Wisconsin, Wilbur C. Ott grew up working on his family farm, where he developed a strong work ethic and deep sense of responsibility. Even while helping maintain the demands of farm life, he was an excellent student, demonstrating early on his commitment to learning and perseverance. Following the passing of his father, he took over the family farm and operated it alongside his beloved wife, Delores, for many years. He went on to build a long and dedicated career at Consolidated Papers, Inc. (Kraft Division), where he retired as the Services Manager.

Wilbur was known by his family and throughout the community for his kindness, his unwavering dedication to those he loved, and his willingness to always lend a helping hand. He believed strongly in the value of education and consistently encouraged his grandchildren to pursue higher education and create opportunities for themselves.

This scholarship honors his legacy by supporting students as they continue their educational journeys, carrying forward the values he lived by each day.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School or Adams-Friendship High School

o Minimum GPA of 3.00

o Pursuing a career in any field, with preference given to a career in agriculture

o Preference may be given to a student who demonstrates an interest in agriculture

o Preference may be given to a student who has demonstrated a passion for band

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full- or -part-time enrollment at an accredited post-secondary institution in a two- or four-year degree program or a one-year certification program

o Financial need may be considered

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Please select one of the following: Describe the positive impact agriculture has on your life. OR Describe how your education and involvement in agriculture have contributed to who you are today and to your plans for the future.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dr. Jung K. Park Legacy for Learning Scholarship

Description

Established by the Dr. Jung K. Park family, the Dr. Jung K. Park Legacy for Learning Scholarship honors his extraordinary life. Dr. Park was a man of great wisdom, strength and generosity. He proudly served the Wisconsin Rapids community as a skilled pathologist for more than 35 years.

Dr. Park was born in Korea, near the border of China. His sophomore year of college, he was offered a scholarship to continue his studies in the United States. Fulfilling his lifelong dream, Dr. Park traveled to the US with just $50 in his pocket.

Through his own hard work and the support of others, Dr. Park completed his medical training and, in 1970, moved to Wisconsin Rapids, where he established his clinical practice and introduced expert pathology services to the community.

Dr. Park's great success was made possible through his dedicated work ethic, value of education, and the support of those who believed in his potential. This scholarship brings Dr. Park's story full circle and beautifully carries on his legacy.

* This scholarship was previously established through another organization.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School, Lincoln High School, John Edwards High School, Nekoosa High School or Pittsville High School

o Pursuing a career in any field; preference may be given to a career in the medical field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical school

o Demonstrated involvement in school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o Consideration may be given to a student who demonstrates a strong potential to succeed

o Consideration may be given to a student who is a first generation American

o Financial need may be considered

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Steven H. Peterson Family Memorial Scholarship

Description

Steven Peterson positively affected many lives during his 31 years teaching history at Lincoln High School. While there, he was also a student council advisor and golf coach, which he continued even after his retirement.

Steve's leadership, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to the youth of Lincoln High School are what his family hopes to continue by establishing this scholarship. It is their wish it will commemorate his commitment to teaching and influencing students for years to come.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a degree in Education, History or any Public Service career

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Strong personal character and work ethic; demonstrates academic promise; passion for career through school, work, or community activities

o Consideration may be given to a student who has been an active student council member or involved in golf

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Pittsville High School Alumni Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in 2003 by alumni of Pittsville High School. Through the years, various classes and individuals have contributed to create a lasting legacy.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Pittsville High School

o Minimum GPA of 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited post-secondary institution

o Demonstrates traits of generosity of spirit and good citizenship in both school and community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Thomas F. and Nancy Z. Plunkett Scholarship, established in honor Frances Nairn, former Guidance Director at Lincoln High School

Description

Tom was a sophomore student at Lincoln High School when he met with Ms. Nairn, Guidance Director. She started talking to him about going to college and changing out of the commercial courses that he was taking. Convincing him to attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she was instrumental in helping him to complete the proper paperwork to get accepted, secure a couple of scholarships and get a job working in the dorm kitchen.

Tom graduated from UW-Madison with a BS degree in mechanical engineering and an MS in nuclear engineering. His 39-year career in the nuclear power industry began at McDonnell Douglas Corporation and would eventually lead him to Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). It was there he served as President of the Nuclear Division and member of the Board of Directors. During his time at FPL, he was responsible for the operation of four nuclear units, two at Turkey Point in south Dade County and two at St. Lucie on Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County, as well as the associated support activities at corporate headquarters in Juno Beach, Florida. During his tenure at Turkey Point, the facility progressed from one of the nation's most troubled power stations to one of the best. Tom was awarded the University of Wisconsin's Distinguished Service Citation for achievement of excellence and outstanding leadership in the nuclear power industry and the American Nuclear Society's Presidential Citation for Special Contributions to the Advancement of Nuclear Science and Technology. He retired in 2001.

Nancy was from Milwaukee. She and Tom met while working together in the dorm kitchen at UW-Madison. She attended three years at Madison. Following their marriage, she finished her undergraduate degree at UCLA receiving a BA in English. She then received a fellowship to USC where she earned a MSEd. She had a career as a teacher in middle school primarily teaching science and reading. Nancy passed away in July 2024.

In reflecting how Ms. Nairn impacted his life, Tom says, "Thanks to this woman, I had a very good career and life with Nancy and our four children. Looking back, it is quite amazing the effect she was able to have on me. As a result, we have decided to set up this scholarship to honor Ms. Nairn and to hopefully help future students who are pursuing a degree in education."

Criteria

o Non-traditional college student or continuing college student

o Prior year graduate of Assumption or Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Pursuing a degree in any field, with preference given to the field of education

o Demonstrates academic achievement; consideration given where passion toward the field of study through involvement in school, work, and extracurricular activities is evident

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Margaret Polansky Memorial Scholarship

Description

Margaret Polansky was a kindergarten teacher for 37 years before she retired in 1992. Margaret graduated from Miss Wood's School in Minneapolis, a kindergarten-primary education training school of Macalester College. She taught in Lodi before returning to school and earned her baccalaureate and master's degrees in education from the UW-Stevens Point. Margaret spent most of her teaching career in the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools as a kindergarten teacher.

Margaret had an infectious smile and gift for putting others at ease. Her love of children and passion to make a difference in their lives was shown everyday while working with her students. After her retirement, Margaret enjoyed traveling with her husband, and spending time with family and friends. She also enjoyed volunteering and finding ways to continue to help children learn and grow.

This scholarship was established in memory of Margaret by her husband and children so others with a passion for helping children learn can continue their education and pursue a career in the field of education.

Criteria

o Current graduating high school senior, continuing college student, or non-traditional college student who has been out of school for a period of time; preference given to non-traditional student

o Resident of the south Wood County area

o Pursuing a teaching degree

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates service to school and community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Richard Polansky Memorial Scholarship

Description

Richard Polansky started working at his father's service station in sixth grade which developed his passion for working on engines and fixing things. During his lifetime, Richard was many things; a husband, father, grandfather, mechanic, business man, and community leader, but his true passion was always working on engines.

Richard was a down-to-earth, hardworking man who was never afraid to get his hands dirty, and was always proud of the grease under his nails. Even when wearing a suit and dress shirt, he would often come home at the end of the day with grease on his shirt sleeves. He simply couldn't look on while one of his mechanics was working on an engine without getting involved and turning a wrench or two.

This scholarship was established in memory of Richard by his children so that others with the passion to work on engines can continue their education and help the world go.

Criteria

o Current graduating high school senior or non-traditional college student

o Resident of the south Wood County area

o Pursuing higher education in a technician program or trades field; preference given to the Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technician or Automotive Technician programs

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for enrollment at an accredited technical college

o Demonstrates passion for the diesel or auto mechanics field through school and work activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Ponce Family Scholarship

Description

Mario V. and Mimi Ponce met in 1967 in Hartford, Connecticut, while completing medical internships at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Both were inspired by a shared desire to care for others, and just two years later they were married. In 1974, they made Wisconsin Rapids their home.

Here, they built not only a family but a life rooted in service. As they raised their two sons, Martin and Mario J., Mimi cared for patients as a physician of internal medicine at Doctor's Clinic for 25 years before her unexpected passing in 2002. As a highly regarded surgeon, Mario was a steady and trusted presence for generations of families during his 50 year career. Together, they embodied generosity in the way they showed up for others - with skill, compassion, and quiet dedication.

Even in retirement, Dr. Ponce remains grateful and generous. "This community has been good to our family," he shares. "And in return, I want to leave something special behind."

What began as a memorial in honor of Mimi has grown into a lasting expression of gratitude. This scholarship reflects the Ponce family's enduring commitment to the well-being of this community and the people who call it home.

* This scholarship was previously established through another organization as the *Dr. Minerva "Mimi" Ponce Memorial Scholarship.*

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School, Lincoln High School, John Edwards High School or Nekoosa High School

o Pursuing a career in a health care related field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited post-secondary institution in a two- or four-year degree program or a one-year certificate program

o Consideration may be given to a student who demonstrates a strong potential to succeed

o Financial need may be considered

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Amber Rahn Memorial Scholarship

Description

Amber Rahn was a Lincoln High School sophomore and member of the Cheer and Stunt Team when she died in an automobile accident November 29, 2000, at the age of 15. She was a passenger in a car and on her way to school when the accident occurred.

"Amber was a leader and a role model who was compassionate and passionate about everything," says her mother. She was a member of the wrestling cheerleaders and spent many hours each week rehearsing routines that were performed at matches and competitions.

This scholarship was established in 2001 by Amber's family and the LHS Cheer and Stunt Booster Club as a memorial to Amber.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Minimum GPA of 2.75

o Financial need given consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

RC Scholarship

Description

The RC Scholarship was established by an anonymous donor for graduating Lincoln High School seniors who are accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates strong desire for learning; service to school and community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dick and Betty Reetz Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in memory of Betty Reetz by her loving husband Dick Reetz. Betty was truly a caring woman who touched the lives of all she knew. She believed in a strong work ethic. She was a devoted wife and mother to her sons Greg and Scott Reetz along with her three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Dick and Betty felt strongly about the value of education. It is their hope that many students benefit from this scholarship and can obtain further education in the medical field or trades field.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School or Assumption High School

o Pursuing a career in the medical field or trades field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year Wisconsin college or university, or an accredited two-year Wisconsin technical or vocational college

o Financial need will be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Reyes/Ancel Scholarship

Description

This fund was established in 1999 by Joseph and Guadalupe Ancel to provide opportunities for students from south Wood County high schools.

Guadalupe taught English-As-A-Second-Language (ESL) at Mead Elementary School, retiring in 2011. Joseph was an Air Management Engineer with the Department of Natural Resources and retired in 2008.

“We want students to have the ability to get themselves out of the economic situation they are in and have an opportunity to give something back to their community when they receive their degree,” Guadalupe says.

"All of the students who apply are worthy. We look for that extra special student who really wants to give something back."

Criteria

o Graduating senior from a high school in south Wood County

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Experiencing a barrier to obtaining higher education

o Demonstrates academic promise

o Preference will be given to a student from an ethnically diverse background and/or a student who is the first person in his/her immediate family to attend college; secondary consideration will be given to any student demonstrating financial need

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe your life goals, what a college education means to you, and how you plan to give back to your community someday.

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: Applicant will answer the following questions, if applicable: 1) If you are the first in your family to go on to college, please state this in your reponse and tell us what it means to you to be able to accomplish this achievement; and/or 2) If you are student from an ethnically diverse background, please state this in your response and tell us how your background may have influenced your educational journey.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Louie and Libby Rosandick Community Leadership Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established in honor of Louie and Libby Rosandick's 50th wedding anniversary by their children and their spouses and grandchildren. Both Louie and Libby have been active in many community service and volunteer organizations including Lions Club, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Agri-Business Committee, Serra Club, 4-H, Girl Scouts, Home Delivered Meals, Historic Point Basse, Riverview Hospital Auxiliary, Miss Wisconsin Rapids Pageant, United Way, Master Gardeners, Community Progress Initiative, as well as activities in St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Louie and Libby's family want to encourage young people to get involved with their community, as they've seen what a positive impact their parents' involvement has had.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a public, parochial, or charter high school in Nekoosa, Pittsville, Port Edwards, or Wisconsin Rapids

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Emphasis on leadership and community volunteerism

o Consideration may be given to financial need

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe how volunteer activities have made an impact on your life.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Russell Rottler Memorial Scholarship

Description

Russell (Russ) and his family moved to Nekoosa when he was in second grade. He worked at Domtar formerly known as Nekoosa Papers, Inc. for 38 years as many Nekoosa residents still do. Russ was a member of the Wisconsin Rapids Lodge #128 F. & A. M. Masonic Lodge and served as secretary for 24 years. He enjoyed learning new things and was an avid reader.

This scholarship was established by his wife, Kathy and children. The awards will support current graduating high school and non-traditional college students who are members of the Nekoosa United Church of Christ, where Russ had been a member since arriving in Nekoosa.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County, non-traditional college student who resides in the south Wood County area, or past recipients are eligible to apply

o Current member of Nekoosa United Church of Christ

o Minimum GPA of 2.00

o Graduating senior or past recipient must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; non-traditional college student must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for either full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Although scholastic achievement is important, the C student should be considered as strongly as the A or B student

o Consideration should be given to the quiet, deserving student to the same degree as the student involved in numerous extracurricular activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Rudolph's Little Dears Child Care Center Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by Rich and Caroline Casper in 2006 to support students pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. The criteria was expanded in 2022 to include students pursuing a degree in Elementary Education.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior, continuing technical college or college student, or non-traditional college student who resides in the south Wood County area

o Pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education, with preference given to a student pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at a Wisconsin technical college, or a Wisconsin two- or four-year college or university, with preference given to a student enrolled at a Wiscosin technical college and special preference given to a student enrolled at Mid-State Technical College

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Robert and Kathleen Scamfer Scholarship

Description

Robert worked in the Nekoosa School District from 1969-1989. He began his career as a biology teacher in the Elkhorn School District, obtaining his teaching degree from Northland College. After receiving his masters degree from UW-Superior, Robert and his family moved to Nekoosa where he became the principal at Nekoosa High School. In his later years, he was the principal at Humke Elementary School, and then superintendent of the school district.

For many years, Robert was a member of the Nekoosa Lions Club. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed getting out on the course whenever he could. He loved talking about biology related topics and was a wealth of information. Therefore, this scholarship will focus on the sciences since that was his passion in education.

Robert's wife, Kathleen, and their daughters, Lori, Diane and Lynne, would like to carry on his legacy by encouraging others to find a similar path and become a valuable member of their community some day.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School, previous recipient or continuing college student that graduated from Nekoosa High School, with preference given to a previous recipient

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a degree in science, with preference given to a student pursuing a degree in Biology

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates dedication and service in their home or community through school, work and/or extracurricular activities

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Bernard and Marlyce Schmick Scholarship

Description

Bernard and Marlyce Schmick retired from the former Consolidated Papers, Inc., after a combined total of more than 60 years with the company. They are parents of six grown children who attended Assumption High School. They have nine grandchildren.

The scholarship is for a student interested in medicine or music. "What better way to serve mankind than through medicine," says Mrs. Schmick.

Music was Mr. Schmick's avocation. He played steel guitar and enjoyed all kinds of music. They both sang in the choir at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, and Mr. Schmick sang at state and international levels with the Central Wisconsin Master Chorale (formerly Monteverdi Master Chorale).

"We are so pleased to be able to support a deserving student through our scholarship fund," said Mr. Schmick.

Mr. Schmick passed away in September 2017 at the age of 89.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption High School

o Pursuing a career in the field of music or medicine

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment with preference given to a student attending an accredited four-year college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise; school co-curricular activities; community involvement

o Financial need may be considered as a tie-breaker

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Elaine Semrow Health Education Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was created to express Elaine's appreciation for the 40 wonderful years working at the Doctors Clinic. "I have seen the great need for the medical profession," says Elaine. "I feel a commitment to help others attain their goal of working in the medical field."

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption or Lincoln High School

o Pursing a degree in any medical field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic ability; interest in medical field through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Robert Shaw, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Description

Robert Shaw, Jr. was a senior at Lincoln High School when he died in 1978, at the age of 17, of injuries from a traffic accident. He had planned to attend technical college after graduation. He was a member of the golf team of Lincoln High School and especially enjoyed golfing with his dad.

"Bob was very special to me," said his dad. "He was a level-headed kid and was easy to raise. One of the pleasures of my life was playing golf with him and seeing his game improve."

"He gave us a lot of pleasure in his 17 years," said his mother, Flora Bottensek. "We were all devastated when he died and wanted to set up this scholarship to help other students," Mrs. Bottensek said.

“Incourage hosted a luncheon for the recipients for many years and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet the student who received this scholarship,” Mrs. Bottensek said. “I kept in touch with many of the recipients I met.”

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Participated in a high school sport, particularly golf

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Snyder 4-H Scholarship, in honor of Ed and Shirley Vruwink

Description

This fund was established in December 2007, in honor of Ed and Shirley Vruwink. They led the Snyder 4-H Club for over 50 years.

The Snyder 4-H Clubhouse is the little white schoolhouse north of Wisconsin Rapids. Snyder's 4-H food stand at the Central Wisconsin State Fair has been a favorite of fairgoers for years. Through this endeavor, Snyder 4-H has helped hundreds of youth obtain leadership, organizational and real life skills by working in the food stand and also participating in many 4-H projects, events and trips.

In honor of Ed and Shirley, and due to the hard work of hundreds of Snyder 4-Hers and the sale of hundreds of apple pies, Snyder 4-H Club is able to award this scholarship to deserving young adults in Wood County.

Ed passed away August 13, 2008 and Shirley passed away June 24, 2013.

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior or continuing college student who resides in Wood County

o Must have been enrolled and participated in 4-H for a minimum of one year (Membership in Snyder 4-H is not a requirement)

o Must have been an active 4-H Club member, leader, or volunteer within the last year

o Minimum GPA 2.50

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates leadership and service to community

o Strongly encourage scholarship recipient to volunteer for a shift in the Snyder 4-H Food Stand at the Central Wisconsin State Fair. Recipient will be contacted for available times.

o Prior recipients may reapply

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Soper Family Scholarship

Description

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
~ Dr. Suess

The Soper family scholarship is estabished to support and encourage Pittsville High School students who wish to pursue a degree in nursing or education.

Connie Soper used her PHS education as a stepping stone to a successful career as an RN and a dialysis adminsitrator over a 40 year career. Daughter, Kimberli Soper Dammann, also a PHS graduate serves as a elementary counselor with the Marshfield School District. A coach, teacher and counselor for three decades provided Chuck Soper the honor of serving Pittsville students. Education can never be taken away from you. Pursue it. Embrace it.

Criteria

o Current graduating Pittsville High School senior or non-traditional student who graduated from Pittsville High School

o Must have attended Pittsville High School all four years, freshman through senior years

o Minimum GPA 2.50

o Pursuing a career in the field of nursing or education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university, or two-year technical college or university

o Demonstrates promise and passion for career through school, work or community volunteer activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Ray Speltz Memorial Music Scholarship

Description

Ray Speltz was a musician and owner of Speltz Music Store in Wisconsin Rapids, and music was an integral part of his life. As a young boy, he played the clarinet and saxophone in the Speltz family band.

Through his years at Lincoln High School, he performed with the band and orchestra. While serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he was selected to entertain troops as a member of the military band.

After the war, he attended Conn Vocational School in Indiana and in 1947, he founded the Speltz Music Co. He was innovative in the extensive instrument rental and repair program he established.

This fund was established in 2000 by his daughter, Susan Reichert, as a tribute to her father, who is remembered for his love of family, sense of humor, and a life long love of music.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County or a continuing college student

o Pursuing a career in the field of music or any other field as long as applicant demonstrates love of music

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates love of music

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

John and Judy Steele Scholarship

Description

John and Judy Steele of Wisconsin Rapids established a scholarship fund in their name to help benefit children from the area's Hmong population.

Judy, a former teacher, became involved with the Hmong community through the United Methodist Church when in 1988, many Hmong families settled in Wisconsin Rapids as refugees from communist oppression in Laos. In 1992, she helped organize the Hmong Association of Wood County, Inc. to provide advocacy and human services to the Hmong community, and liaison services to the entire community. Judy worked at the Hmong Association as a volunteer from its beginning until 2002.

"Education is the primary way to help persons from other cultures become integrated into the American way of life," says Judy. "It is our hope that this award will motivate and assist young minority students to pursue higher education."

Criteria

o Graduating high school senior from the tri-city area defined as Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards, and Nekoosa

o Student from an ethnically diverse background, with preference given to a Hmong student

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic performance

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Lynn Larson Swanson Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Lynn Larson Swanson Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by family and friends to honor her 40-year dedication to the teaching profession.

Lynn grew up in the small community of Mt. Jewett, Pennsylvania. Her early educational experiences were supported by her parents, live-in grandmother and next-door neighbor who was also one of her teachers. She graduated from Kane High School, PA, in 1957 as class salutatorian. She participated in music and sports, served as a class officer, member of student council and the National Honor Society, and was prom queen. During her summers Lynn worked as a counselor at church and youth camps.

Lynn obtained her teaching degree in elementary education from Indiana State Teachers College (Indiana, PA) now known as Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She began her teaching career at James City, an elementary school in the Kane School District. One year later, she and her husband, Mike, moved to Wisconsin Rapids. After a few years tending to her own children, Lynn rekindled her passion for teaching at Rudolph Elementary School. She later transferred to Grove Elementary School, just two blocks from home, where she taught until her retirement. Known for her creativity, Lynn co-founded a summer school operetta and helped create prairie gardens at her school.

Lynn was deeply involved in her community, including the Wisconsin Rapids Retired Teachers Association, American Association of University Women, Elks Ladies, Wisconsin Rapids Sports Commission and the Tri-City Curling Club. She received several honors, including Teacher of the Year and the Elks Lady of the Year. This scholarship continues her legacy of inspiring future educators.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a public or parochial high school in the south Wood County area, graduating senior homeschool student that resides in the south Wood County area, or graduating senior from Kane Area High School in Kane, PA.

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a teaching career in K-12 education, with preference given to a student pursuing a teaching career in elementary education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates promise and passion for career working with children through school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Dr. John and Germaine Thompson "Good Citizenship" Award

Description

Dr. John and Germaine Thompson of Nekoosa established a Good Citizenship Award fund in January of 1999 to promote and recognize young people who exhibit the traits associated with good citizenship.

Dr. Thompson was a physician in Nekoosa for 43 years before retiring in 1994. He grew up in a small town in southern Wisconsin and moved to Nekoosa when the mayor recruited him in 1957 from his job at Gunderson Clinic in La Crosse. Thompson served in the U.S. Air Force as a fighter pilot during WWII from 1942 to 1945 and was a prisoner of war. He returned to military service during the Korean Conflict.

Dr. Thompson passed away on April 15, 2007. He exemplified what it meant to be a good citizen. His passion for youth and the community was visible throughout the area. Dr. Thompson was a true inspiration to us and will be deeply missed.

He and his wife are the parents of five children: Nancy Kautzer, Dr. John Michael Thompson, Vicki Herzberg, Dr. Julie Dobkin and Rebecca Gabor.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Nekoosa High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates service to school and community

o Personal characteristics of leadership, service, creative achievements, and integrity

o Financial need and academic achievement are not to be primary determining factors but may be considered

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Jesse D. Tillery & Matthew T. Grimm Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was created by contributions from local citizens, organizations, and businesses in tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Jesse Tillery and Army Corporal Matthew Grimm. The scholarship was established by Andy Elmhorst, a resident of Wisconsin Rapids, who felt that two young men from our community who lost their lives in Iraq deserved some kind of permanent memorial recognition. He did not know these young men or their families. According to Andy, he did this because it's the right thing to do. He believes, "This community owes them a debt of gratitude for sacrificing their lives for our freedom."

Jesse Tillery was born on May 18, 1987 in Vesper. After graduating from Lincoln High School, he served with distinction in the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force of Camp Lejeune, NC. Jesse was in his first tour of duty in Iraq when he died at the age of 19 on December 2, 2006, of injuries sustained from enemy action. He embodied the Marine Corp's values of honor, courage, and commitment; and his family and friends are proud of him knowing that he did what he wanted to do – serve the nation and fight for freedom.

Matthew Grimm, born on October 7, 1985, in Wisconsin Rapids, was a 2004 graduate of Lincoln High School. He served in the Army as a M1A1 Armor Crewman assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Calvary Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. He was on duty in Mosul, Iraq when he died at the age of 21 on January 15, 2007, as the result of a roadside bomb.

Matthew and Jesse's memory will live on in the hearts of many proud Americans forever.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates leadership, strong work ethic, and active role in the community

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe what patriotism means to you.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Tolley Family Scholarship Fund

Description

"Growing up in the shadow of the former Port Edwards paper mill, I listened to my father's experiences in both the mill and being part of the leadership team. Later, working on the paper machines gave me great respect for the different skillsets we need to run our institutions, build our infrastructure, and manufacture the products that we often take for granted," says William (Bill) Thompson Tolley, JEHS Class of 1975. "As I pursued a career in manufacturing, I saw a great need to educate and train the workforce of the future."

Bill created the Tolley Family Scholarship Fund in 2025 to honor his parents, William Wooster Tolley, former chair of the Port Edwards Board of Education and many other volunteer leadership positions, and Barbara Thompson Tolley, also known for her impactful volunteerism and stunning flower arrangements. The Fund also recognizes the many outstanding Port Edwards teachers and coaches who prepared Bill and his two brothers so well for their lives ahead.

The Fund's primary goal is to help John Edwards High School graduates seeking to earn a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or license in selected trades by providing funding for their post JEHS education or training. Deserving, ambitious students, preferably those with limited financial resources, who demonstrate commitment to a post-secondary academic or vocational program are encouraged to apply.

"Port Edwards launched me," says Bill, "and it is my hope that my family will play a part in launching the JEHS students of today and tomorrow. We expect that scholarship recipients will make a difference, whether working as leaders or behind the scenes - on which our future quality of life depends."

Criteria

o Graduating senior of John Edwards High School in Port Edwards, WI, or a student who graduated from John Edwards High School and delayed enrollment in post-secondary education or training for up to four academic years

o Minimum GPA of 3.25

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, technical college, or trade school

o Demonstrated involvement in school, work, extracurricular and/or community volunteer activities

o Financial need may be a consideration

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon academic performance

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe how JEHS and living in Port Edwards has affected your ambition for higher education.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Mitchell G. Tomfohrde Memorial Scholarship

Description

Mitchell Tomfohrde is a great example of a person who overcame adversity and achieved many significant accomplishments throughout his lifetime. Mitchell suffered a stroke at age 11. As a result, his vision was severely affected and he suffered other health issues as well.

Although he was legally blind, Mitchell was a 1980 graduate of Lincoln High School with high honors. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from UW-SP and a Master's Degree in Education from Northern Illinois University.

Mitchell was working as an investment representative for AEGON Investment Company, West Allis, at the time of his death. He was also a gifted writer and his works were published in 40 different magazines and newspapers. He had been writing since the age of 12. He had been the district governor of the Toastmasters South East Wisconsin. He was also a former member of the Vesper Lions Club and an elder in his church. Mitchell also enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family and friends.

This fund was established by his family and will carry on Mitchell's legacy.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Students in Exceptional Education Needs program are encouraged to apply

o Minimum GPA 3.25 for Non-EEN students

o Pursuing a career in business, engineering, science, medical, or health care field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o UNIQUE ESSAY: Describe your life goals and how you plan to give back to your community someday.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Ernie Vogler Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by family and friends and is intended for students pursuing a career in counseling, psychology, social work, or a similar helping profession.

Ernie Vogler was a guidance counselor for the Wisconsin Rapids schools from 1962-1992. Ernie was known as a very caring counselor and was available to his students at all times.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a degree in counseling, psychology, social work or similar helping profession

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise; passion for career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Edward W. and Shirley J. Vruwink Scholarship

Description

The Edward W. and Shirley J. Vruwink Scholarship was established to support students who are interested in pursuing a degree in agriculture.

Edward was employed at Georgia Pacific Papers, Nekoosa, for 38 years and Shirley was a supervisor for the State of Wisconsin-Unemployment Compensation Job Service in Wisconsin Rapids for 38 years. In addition to working full-time, they lived and raised their five children on a beef farm. The Vruwink farm helped to instill a strong work ethic, build character and provide many life lessons for their children and grandchildren.

Edward and Shirley dedicated their lives not only to their family, but to their friends and community. They had a strong commitment to their faith, served as general leaders of the Snyder 4-H Club for 50 years and volunteered in many community activities.

They believed strongly in education. All five of their children attended college and their four sons graduated with degrees in agriculture.

This scholarship was created by family and friends as a tribute to Edward and Shirley's zest to live life to its fullest.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Minimum GPA 3.00; preference may be given to student with GPA between 3.00-3.50

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture. Agricultural majors would include but not be limited to: agricultural business, agricultural economics, agricultural education, agricultural engineering, agricultural journalism, agronomy, animal science, conservation, dairy science, earth science, entomology, food science, forest science, genetics (animal or plant), horticulture, landscape architecture, land use planning, meat science, poultry science, plant pathology, soil science, wildlife ecology, veterinary (large animal). Other agricultural-related majors may be considered

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates service to school and community; caring attitude; integrity, and strong work ethic

o Consideration may be given for financial need

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Pamela and Ryan Walker Agricultural Scholarship

Description

The Pamela and Ryan Walker Agricultural Scholarship was established to encourage students to pursue a career in agriculture or related fields of study.

Pamela and Ryan Walker own and operate Walker Cranberry Company located in the town of Cranmoor; specializing in the growing and packaging of premium quality cranberries for the fresh fruit market segment. As 5th-Generation growers, sustaining this agricultural entity requires a combination of science, time-honored cultural practices, and dedicated research. Best practices in field and business include collaborations with professionals such as entomologists, soil scientists, plant pathologists, engineers, and others, providing growers with 21st century techniques and farm sustainability options.

"Inasmuch as our children (6th-Generation growers) garnered skill sets to facilitate growth of our business via attending college; it is our hope that others are encouraged to pursue careers significant to the farming industry and continuing the collaborative investment of agriculture."

Criteria

o Graduating senior or continuing college student of Nekoosa High School, John Edwards High School or Lincoln High School

o Minimum GPA 3.00

o Pursuing a career in Agricultural or Horticultural Sciences including but not limited to: Agronomy, Agribusiness Management, Agriculture Education and Communication, Entomology, Nutritional Sciences, Chemical Engineering, Crop Production Management, Farm Operation, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Sustainable Agriculture or Urban Forestry

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise; passion for the career evident through school, work, or community activities; strong personal character and work ethic

o Prior recipients may reapply

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Ryan Weidman Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Ryan Weidman Memorial Scholarship was established by Krista Weidman through donations from family and friends in memory of her husband who passed away from a brain tumor in May 2008 at the age of 35.

Ryan was a 1991 graduate of Lincoln High School. He went on to the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point where he pursued a degree in Plant Biology and Soil Science. An avid gardener, Ryan always enjoyed spending time digging in the dirt, planting gardens, and landscaping. After marrying and starting a family, Ryan shared this love with his children, Kyra and Sawyer.

This scholarship seeks to assist other young men and women who share a passion for horticulture and biology and wish to pursue a career in those areas.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a degree in biology or horticultural sciences; primary consideration will be given to a student entering the horticultural science field

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Financial need may be a consideration

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Luke Weiland Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was established by Charles and Laurie Weiland, in memory of their son, Luke, who passed away in February 2006 at the age of 19.

Luke was a 2004 graduate of LHS who had a natural talent for computer programming. He took many computer-related courses in high school and was selected by faculty of the Computer Science Department to help train other students. Luke was also a member of the Cheer and Stunt team all three years of high school.

Luke went on to UW-Stevens Point to major in Computer Information Systems. He was employed by the UW-SP Computer Information Systems Department and assisted other students in computer labs, on the computer help desk, and with residential network issues.

This scholarship fund seeks to assist other young men and women who are as passionate about computer programming as Luke was.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a career in Computer Information Systems

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at any University of Wisconsin school; preference given to student attending UW-Stevens Point

o Demonstrates interest in career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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James H. Wenzlaff Scholarship

Description

The James H. Wenzlaff Scholarship has been established as a tribute to his granddaughter, Amy, an exceptional education needs graduate of LHS; to his wife, Nancy Wenzlaff, for her successful career helping students with exceptional education needs, and as an acknowledgement to teachers like her.

Mr. Wenzlaff, a long-time member of the community and more than 45-year employee of the telephone company, believed in the power of education at the post-secondary level for students with unique challenges. Building a positive future for these young adults often requires additional opportunities beyond high school. The scholarship fund will support this need.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School, including high school senior, continuing college student, or non-traditional college student residing in south Wood County

o Pursuing a bachelor's degree in any area related to the field of exceptional education needs or special education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Multi-year award for up to four years based upon continued enrollment

o UNIQUE SHORT ANSWER: Describe how you plan to work with exceptional education needs, special education and/or disabled students in your chosen career field.

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

James H. Wenzlaff EEN Scholarship

Description

The James H. Wenzlaff Scholarship has been established as a tribute to his granddaughter, Amy, an exceptional education needs graduate of LHS; to his wife, Nancy Wenzlaff, for her successful career helping students with exceptional education needs, and as an acknowledgement to teachers like her.

Mr. Wenzlaff, a long-time member of the community and more than 45-year employee of the telephone company, believed in the power of education at the post-secondary level for students with unique challenges. Building a positive future for these young adults often requires additional opportunities beyond high school. The scholarship fund will support this need.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Enrolled in the Exceptional Education Needs or Special Education Program

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Multi-year award for up to two years based upon continued enrollment

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Brian Wilhelm Memorial Scholarship

Description

This scholarship was created in memory of Brian Wilhelm after his death from an aortic aneurysm in 2004. Brian received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from UW–Madison in 1999. After graduation, he worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber for four years, and most recently was employed by Hutchinson Technology, Inc. in Plymouth, Minnesota.

At a young age, Brian showed an aptitude for working with his hands. He built remote control cars and model planes. As he grew older, he continued to work with his hands, especially woodworking. He was fascinated with how things were made and how things worked. Brian shared his engineering skills by mentoring and coaching middle school science Olympiad students.

He was a loving husband, a devoted son, and a faithful friend who enjoyed the good things in life. All his life, Brian's uniqueness touched so many people. His family, friends, and colleagues established this scholarship to honor Brian's memory.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing an engineering degree

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university

o Passion for learning evident

o Demonstrates interest in career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

incourage™

Herbert Williams Future Education Scholarship

Description

Herbert Williams was a former principal of John Edwards High School in Port Edwards. He graduated as a technical engineer from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. After working as an engineer, he realized he wanted to be a teacher. He went back to school and received a degree from the UW-La Crosse. Herbert earned his Master's Degree in Chemistry from Illinois Wesleyan.

In 1956, he began teaching general science, chemistry and physics in Neillsville. He taught there for seven years and then relocated to Port Edwards in 1963, and taught science until 1968. At that time, he became John Edwards High School's first full-time principal. He continued to teach chemistry for several years and retired in 1985. Herbert took a great interest in all of the students, but was most pleased when students went into education.

It is hoped that this endowed scholarship will provide dedicated students with the opportunity to continue his legacy in education.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of John Edwards High School

o Pursuing a career in education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance at an accredited college or university

o Consideration given to academic achievement, initiative, commitment to learning

o Demonstrates interest in students and teaching, selflessness with time and energy, and strong personal character

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Wisconsin Rapids Optimist Club Scholarship

Description

The purposes of the Optimist Club is to develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life, and the world. Working directly with young people, Optimists organize and conduct many types of events and programs for youth.

The Wisconsin Rapids Optimist Club was founded in 1981. It was affiliated with Optimist International that has over 3,000 clubs worldwide and more than 117,000 members. After 40 years of service to our local youth the Wisconsin Rapids Optimist Club sunsetted in the fall of 2021.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Assumption, John Edwards, Lincoln, or Nekoosa High School

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates involvement in community service

o Emphasis on volunteerism, civic engagement, and citizenship

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Wisconsin Rapids Sunrise Rotary Scholarship and Mentor Award

Description

Wisconsin Rapids Sunrise Rotary has established a scholarship opportunity with a mentoring component.

Criteria

o High school graduate or student who has earned an HSED or GED prior to fall semester

o Must reside within Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, or Port Edwards school districts

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for enrollment at an accredited college, university, or technical college; preference may be given to a student attending an institution in central Wisconsin

o Demonstrates financial need documented through the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at FAFSA.gov

o Currently experiencing socio-economic barriers to obtaining higher education

o Must agree to participate in mentoring activities as determined by Sunrise Rotary Club such as attending a limited number of local Rotary meetings or activities such as job coaching, job shadowing, career exploration, and/or other opportunities to build educational and career success

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Art Wittenberg Scholarship

Description

Art Wittenberg's grandparents came to the Nekoosa area in 1889. Art was born and raised on the land homesteaded by his grandparents – except for a tour of duty in the Marines during World War II – lived and farmed there his entire life. He graduated from Nekoosa's Alexander High School in 1937.

This scholarship was established by Mr. Wittenberg to show his appreciation of his family's long-lasting relationship with a positive, friendly community.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in Nekoosa or Port Edwards who is a resident of the Town of Port Edwards or non-traditional college student who graduated from a high school in Nekoosa or Port Edwards and has been a lifelong resident of the Town of Port Edwards.

o Graduating high school student or past recipient must be accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited technical college, university, or college; non-traditional college student must be accepted or awaiting acceptance with a minimum of 6 credit hours at an accredited college, university, or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise, strong personal character, and desire to learn

o Primary consideration will be given to a current graduating high school student

o Past recipients may reapply in subsequent years for up to three additional years

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Russ Wolff Memorial Scholarship

Description

Russ Wolff began his teaching career at Lincoln High School immediately after his graduation from UW-Stevens Point. For the next 27 years, he demonstrated his love of teaching and his commitment to the students at LHS.

Although Mr. Wolff held high standards for behavior and academics, he brought laughter and fun into the biology classroom. He was known for playing polka music during labs and telling jokes about anything and everything. He was always ready with a sympathetic ear.

In Mr. Wolff's classes, students learned more than biology, they learned about his values of family, honesty, integrity, and respect.

This scholarship was funded with donations from Russ Wolff's family, friends, colleagues and students. It is to be granted to a student who has the desire to become a teacher and touch the lives of students.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of Lincoln High School

o Pursuing a career in K-12 education

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university

o Demonstrates academic promise; passion for teaching career through school, work, or community activities

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.

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Earl & Ellen Young Memorial Endowment Scholarship

Description

Assisting students attain a higher education was very important to Earl and Ellen Young.

Ellen was born in Plover on July 30, 1915, but moved to Wisconsin Rapids when she was six years old. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1933. She married Earl F. Young on August 31, 1974, in Nashua, Iowa.

Ellen worked in the sample room at Consolidated Papers Inc. for 43 years retiring in 1977. She was a longtime member of the Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church, Women of the Moose Lodge No. 1478, Riverside Rebekah Lodge No. 12, and the Kellner Senior Citizens.

Earl passed away in 1994. Ellen passed away in February 2011, at the age of 95. This scholarship was established as a bequest through Ellen's will.

Criteria

o Graduating senior of a high school in south Wood County

o Accepted or awaiting acceptance for full-time enrollment at an accredited college, university or technical college

o Demonstrates academic promise and service to community

o COMMON ESSAY: Share a personal experience or describe any attributes that influenced your career choice.