Foundation
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Scholarship Handbook

2026-2027

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The Lincoln community cares deeply about the quality of education at its public schools. That is why, through the years, many generous donors have established over 100 scholarships. The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools administers these scholarships as part of its mission to create opportunities for students to reach for their dreams and maximize their own potential.

General Information

Disclaimer

This handbook is intended as a guide for the 2026-2027 academic year. The information included is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. It is possible that due to the nature of the fundraising process, some details of the scholarships may have changed after the publication of this handbook. To get the full list of the scholarships for which you qualify, and the essays you will need to write in order to successfully apply, please complete the initial steps of the Kaleidoscope application.

Note: Scholarship questions marked with an asterisk (*) are already covered by the required essays listed below under "Essays ALL Applicants Need to Write" and do not require an additional response.

How to Apply

- The 2026-2027 Foundation for LPS scholarship application opens Tuesday, December 1, 2026 and closes at 11:59 PM on Sunday, January 31, 2027.
- Applications are submitted using Kaleidoscope – an online scholarship platform.
- Kaleidoscope can be accessed in two ways:
  - Visit the website https://www.foundationforlps.org/scholarshipsandawards/scholarships/ and click "Apply Now."
  - Visit the website www.lps.org and use the jump code G8YA and click "Apply Now."
- Once on the scholarship platform you will click "Log In to Apply," you will then be able to create an account or log in.
  - It is important to sign up with your personal email account — not your LPS email account – so we can contact you after graduation in the event you receive scholarship funding.
- After entering your personal information, click "I'm not a robot" and then "Submit."
- Log in using your email and password.
- After starting an application, you may save your work and return later to finish.
- When you are ready to submit, click "Apply."

Tips to Make Your Application Stand Out

- Follow all directions.
  - Leave no blanks unless specifically indicated to do so. Be sure to include all supporting documents requested.
- Prepare your answers ahead of time.

- Type your essays and application answers in a separate document so you can determine word count, check for spelling and grammar errors, and save your work for future scholarship applications. In your essay(s), tell the reader what makes you stand out as compared to other applicants.

- Proofread your application and essays.
  - Have someone else read through your application before you submit it. They may help identify errors or provide suggestions for improvement.

Documents You May Need for the Application

- Free/Reduced Lunch Notification letter or email (if applicable)
  - You may call Student Services at 402-436-1688 for a copy.
- Transcript
  - Request your transcript only after first semester grades are posted, expected on or around January 10, 2027.
  - Use this link to obtain the transcript request form: https://home.lps.org/studentservices/transcripts/
- Total annual household gross income and your household size (number of people, including yourself)
- Resume
  - You may build upon your resume from Take Charge class or build your own
  - Include any current and past work experience in your resume
- Describe each job, your responsibilities, position(s) held, dates of employment, and number of hours per week

Essays ALL Applicants Need to Write - 500-word limit

1. Describe your current financial challenges and explain how a scholarship would assist in reaching your goals.
2. How have your experiences at your high school enriched your life? In what ways do you feel you have made a positive contribution to your school?
3. Describe your educational, occupational, and personal goals, and how you plan to reach them. What plans have you made for the next five to ten years? Be specific.
4. Describe any obstacles or difficulties (financial or otherwise) you and your family have experienced while you have been in high school. How have you contributed to help your home and family?
5. What inspired you to pursue your area of study? How do you intend to use your degree upon completion?

Scholarships for All LPS High School Students

Bill and Deb Sesow Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,100
One scholarship awarded

Description

Bill and Deb met while attending the State University of New York at Cortland where they both earned their Bachelor's degrees in Physical Education in 1960. This set the foundation for their careers in education which impacted thousands of students. After graduating from college, Bill served in a dual-role as a teaching principal in Vermont while Deb student taught in Hawaii. In 1961, they married, and two years later, they moved to Nebraska, where they would continue to teach until retirement. At UNL, both earned their Master's degrees while Bill also earned an Ed.D. Bill was an elementary school principal in Bellevue, then a professor at UNL in Teachers College for more than 30years. While at UNL, Bill served as a member of the Teachers College faculty and also advised masters and doctoral students choosing an administrative path as a school principal or superintendent. Deb served as a special education teacher and administrator at LPS for more than 25 years, impacting the lives of many students with developmental disabilities. Deb was also instrumental in LPS's mainstreaming programs, integrating students with special needs into general education classrooms for part of the school day. Their passion for education was passed on as children and grandchildren have made education their career.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to pursue a degree in education at a two or four-year accredited college or university
- Preference will be given to a student that demonstrates financial need

Essay(s)

- Tell us about an educator who made a difference in your life. (250-500 words)

Bryan Health Sciences Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,650
One scholarship awarded

Description

This fund was established in honor of Bryan Medical Center to encourage talented young adults to pursue a profession in the health care field. Bryan Medical Center operates an acute-care hospital as well as several outpatient clinics, heart institute, and College of Health Sciences Center.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan on enrolling in an accredited program leading to a bachelor's degree, certificate or registration in a health care field
- Priority will be given to applicants who have been accepted to Bryan College of Health Sciences (i.e. coursework or volunteer experiences or employment or participation in HOSA). Note: student must have Health Sciences declared major to receive scholarship.
- Preference will be given to students demonstrating financial need
- Three references are required

Courtney Cusick Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2004 in memory of Courtney Cusick. Courtney Cusick & Michael Berg died Jan. 19, 2002 in a car accident. Both students attended the Science Focus program and were very involved in this program. After graduation and beginning college, both students came back to the Science Focus Program to promote both internally and externally.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior in the Science Focus Program
- I most exemplify what the Science Focus Program is all about
- I have made a significant contribution to the educational environment at the school

Application Process

Students are selected for this scholarship by the Science Focus Program Staff.

Curtis J. FitzSimmons, M.D., Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Curtis J. FitzSimmons, M.D., an East High graduate (’85), was a board-certified infectious disease physician who passed away in 2017. This scholarship, created in 2019 by his parents, Bob and Jan FitzSimmons, honors the memory of Curtis by awarding a scholarship to a Lincoln student who has experienced the death of someone close to them.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior or graduate
- I am enrolling in a post-secondary education institution for the first time
- I have experienced the death of a significant person in my life
- Secondary preference to students who have participated in the Mourning Hope Grief Center’s programs and services

Essay(s)

- How has the death of someone significant in your life affected you personally and financially? Please identify the nature of your relationship with this person. (500-word limit)

David and Catherine Sellmyer Scholarship

Award Amount: $4,000 ($2,000 for the first year in college, and $2,000 for the second year in college)
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in 2023 by Catherine and the late David Sellmyer to honor Catherine's LPS teaching career and David's career in physics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Cathy taught at Sheridan Elementary School for over 25 years. During her tenure she enjoyed teaching students at all levels of ability. Cathy was active in various committees. She was active in training student teachers in her classroom in cooperation with UNL. Cathy helped the district in writing curriculum for differentiated literature. She worked with teachers and administrators on scope and sequence for K-12 English. She facilitated a Chess Club for many years. She was a social studies liaison and was on the district's textbook selection committee. Cathy worked on Governor Kay Orr's Education Goals for 2000 Committee. After retiring, Cathy was an Adjunct Lecturer for the College of Education and Human Sciences and taught classroom management. She also worked as a supervisor of student athletes in study hall for the Athletic Department at UNL. David had a profound impact on the UNL Physics Department during his nearly 50 years there. He was highly productive, authoring more than 700 publications, teaching undergraduate classes, mentoring 30 PhD. students, and 50 postdoctoral trainees. He became internationally known for his work related to magnetism, condensed matter physics, and nanotechnology. He served as the chairman of the department from 1978 to 1984 and was the founding director of the Nebraska Center for Materials and Nanoscience established in 1988. In these roles, he repeatedly brought science and engineering faculty together to write joint research proposals to federal agencies including the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. David secured funding from NSF to establish the Nebraska Nanoscale Facility. This Facility is part of 16 sites including Harvard, Cornell, Penn, Northwestern, and Stanford which constitute the National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure program to serve academia, industry, and federal laboratories related to nanomaterials fabrication and characterization. David and Cathy moved to Lincoln in 1972. They were proud to become Nebraskans and raise their three children here. They want to encourage students who are interested in studying physics, chemistry or mathematics.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to attend an accredited four-year institution of post-secondary education full-time
- I am planning to study physics, chemistry, or math -
- Preference given to students who demonstrate financial need

David Munro Spirit of a Silverhawk Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $5,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship has been established by family and friends of David Munro to assist a graduating senior who has excelled and been active in high school while persevering through a serious chronic disease(s)/condition(s) and plans to continue their education at an accredited four-year college or university. David Munro graduated from Lincoln Southwest High School in 2012. He excelled academically, graduating in the top 15% of his class. David always sought to be an involved student in the high school he loved. He was a student ambassador, a member of National Honor Society, active in student council, varsity vocal music and the athletic program, serving as student manager for his beloved boys basketball team all four years. No one was a prouder Silverhawk! David was also blessed and especially grateful for the many meaningful relationships he forged with so many faculty and staff members at LSW that enriched his experience. David went on to graduate from Nebraska Wesleyan University. David died in 2018 needing a heart transplant that did not come his way. From the moment of David's birth, he waged a daily battle with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, restrictive and obstructive lung disease, and other related health conditions as the years progressed. David underwent five major heart surgeries (the last during his senior year of high school) and endured countless procedures, interventions, hospitalizations and daily treatments to make life possible. His challenges were significant, but his resilience and perseverance in forging a path forward against unthinkable odds were exceptional. David often said, "You do what you have to do." Indeed, he did; and how he did it was remarkable. He lived his life with grace and joy, never a victim, never bitter. David is remembered for his humor, compassion, intelligence, kindness, positive attitude, contagious smile, and his capacity to rejoice in the good fortune of others. This scholarship seeks to honor David by recognizing and providing financial assistance to other students whose paths are challenging due to a serious chronic disease or condition.

Criteria

- I have been challenged by serious disease(s)/condition(s) diagnosed and treated by a physician
- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited four-year college or university for the entire upcoming academic year
- I have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Preference is given to graduating seniors at Lincoln Southwest who meet the above criteria

Essay(s)

- Please write a personal impact statement on how living with your disease(s)/condition(s) has impacted your life. (500-word limit)

Dayna's Dream Big Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in honor of Dayna Carper Buss. Dayna inspired hundreds of students to "Dream Big" in her 14-year career as a 2nd grade teacher at Cavett Elementary, but she also touched the lives of countless others with her compassionate spirit and love of life. Dayna battled cancer for 18 months and never lost hope, passion, or dedication for teaching or for her students.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I will attend a two or four-year accredited college or university
- Preference will be given to a student seeking a future focused on the development of children/youth

Essay(s)

- Dayna inspired her students to "Dream Big" and always sought to develop each student individually according to his/her own strengths and uniqueness. What future education, occupational, and personal goals do you have? How are you "Dreaming Big" with these goals? (500-word limit)
- Describe a person or experience from your past that has inspired you. How did this person or experience influence your dreams/goals for the future? (500-word limit)

Emily Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2009 in memory of Emily Johnson. Emily was a student at Lincoln Southwest High School and a member of the Southwest swim team.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I will continue my education at a two or four-year accredited college or university
- I am involved in at least two extra-curricular activities with at least one leadership position

Essay(s)

- Emily embraced a passion for life. Please describe your passion for life. (500-word limit)

Emily Johnson Swimmers Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2009 in memory of Emily Johnson. Emily was a student at Lincoln Southwest High School and a member of the Southwest swim team.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I am female
- I am a member of my school's swim or dive team
- I will attend a two or four-year accredited college or university
- I reflect the passion for life that Emily embraced

Fleming, Wollen, Frohner, Standley, Ministry & Public Service Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,700
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 1999 by Randy Fleming in honor of his parents Dean W. and Phyllis Jean Fleming. The fund also honors Dale and Donna Standley and Harold E. Wollen, and Bill and Bernie Frohner, all of whom have made a great impact on Randy's life. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage young men and women to enter full-time religious or public service.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I will attend an accredited post-secondary institution
- Preference will be given to students entering a religiously-affiliated college

Essay(s)

- How do you intend to use your ministry or public service upon completion of college? (500-word limit)
- Where do you see yourself ten years from graduation of high school? (500-word limit)
- How do you intend to give back to your alma mater (the high school you graduated from)? (500-word limit)
- What inspired you to pursue a career in ministry or public service? (500-word limit)

Garrison Avery Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Created in 2020 by his West Point classmates and friends who wanted to remember Garrison C. Avery, his character, his values, and his accomplishments - the Garrison Avery Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to students of character who have overcome obstacles and are still achieving their goals. Garrison C. Avery was a 2000 graduate of Lincoln High whose discipline, modesty, and compassion made an impression on many of his friends. He participated in ROTC at Lincoln High and demonstrated a talent for math and science. He loved to learn and mentioned the influence a combined physics and calculus class at Lincoln High had on his learning. The class prepared him for the method of teaching at West Point.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need and have overcome adversity to excel
- I have public service goals or I have undertaken efforts to help others (philanthropy, community service, etc.)
- I am seeking a career in the military, or I have military aspirations like ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps)
- I have a GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Secondary consideration:
  - Any LPS high school senior
  - Children or relatives of military service members

Essay(s)

- What significant challenges/compelling home circumstances have you overcome in your life? (500-word limit)*
- Describe your public service or military aspirations. (500-word limit)

Great 8 Educational Excellence Scholarship Fund

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The Great 8 Educational Excellence Scholarship Fund was established by Dr. Pam Sedlacek in honor of her former teaching team and administrator at Fredstrom Elementary School and to encourage talented young adults to pursue a profession in education.

Commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and a shared mission of helping all students experience success and achieve at high levels characterized this team of professionals and shaped the educators and leaders they would become. Through close collaboration, teamwork, shared responsibility and innovation students received individualized instruction in a kind, caring, and stimulating learning environment. Team members challenged each other to know and do more for students, to lead, and to continue growing in skill and practice.

While professional paths took team members in varied directions over the years, deep and enduring mutual respect, friendship, and commitment to excellence in teaching and learning forged decades-long professional and personal relationships that the Great 8 still enjoys today.

Criteria

- I am a graduating Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to attend an accredited two or four-year college or university
- Priority will be given to students demonstrating financial need

Harley J. Bair Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,400
One scholarship awarded

Description

Harley J. Bair (1921-2011) grew up on a farm near Fairmont, NE. He worked for his room and board with his great uncle in Ord, NE, where he learned to be a machinist. In 1941, he was hired by Boeing Aircraft in Wichita KS, in the tooling division and helped develop the Boeing B-29 bomber. In 1955, Harley and his first wife Doris started Bair Machine Company and manufactured, among other things, shot+gun shell and rifle reloading equipment for hunters and sportsman which were shipped worldwide. After he sold this business, he started Bair Investment Company, a commercial real estate development company and had a Nebraska State Real Estate Brokers license for over 30 years. After Doris' death Harley married Shirley Vrba Shull. He was very appreciative of the numerous awards given to him from businesses and philanthropic organizations.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I am planning to pursue a post-secondary education

James T. Derr Biology Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2003 in memory of James T. Derr by Pfizer Incorporated. James was employed for 17 years at Pfizer and was recognized as a research scientist and a global authority in the field of veterinary medicine. His scientific accomplishments included the development and licensure of Pfizer's global feline leukemia vaccine, Leukocell 2, ensuring that cats are protected from the deadly disease. He was also involved with the global harmonization of vaccine test standards. James Derr was a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Master of Science in Microbiology.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I am planning a career in Biological Sciences
- I have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- I plan to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jane and Dwight Grandgenett Family Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The Jane and Dwight Grandgenett Family Scholarship was created in 2022 to honor the Grandgenett family's life in Lincoln for more than 50 years and to support a graduating LPS senior's continuing post-secondary education. Jane and Dwight Grandgenett were avid gymnastics, swimming, softball, and soccer fans, and loved attending high school football and basketball games and Big Red football. Dwight helped start the Capital Soccer Association in 1980 and served on the Board for 20 years. Jane served as a chair of the Lincoln High Soccer Parents' Group. Dwight taught at Horace Mann Junior High School (King Science Center) in Omaha from 1960- 1967, then served as the district reading consultant from 1968 until his retirement in 1999. All the Grandgenett kids swam for Eastridge Pool in the summer swimming program and played in the city rec softball and baseball programs. They each graduated from LPS (four East High School and one Lincoln High School). The extended Grandgenett family in Lincoln, Omaha, and Indianapolis has retired, active, and preparing teachers. Education and social service continues to be a major focus of the Grandgenett family. Ann Grandgenett worked in Lincoln social service agencies like LOMR and CAN prior to becoming an LPS reading teacher. The Grandgenett's granddaughter, Rhea Wick, is an LPS paraeducator. Amy Grandgenett was an LPS paraeducator at Park and Hawthorne elementary schools. Christine Grandgenett served for 17 years as Assistant Director at Big Brothers and Big Sisters and is the current CFO at The League of Human Dignity. Mary Grandgenett was a club and an LPS gymnast, Paul Grandgenett was a club and an LPS basketball and soccer player, and Amy Grandgenett played youth club softball. Paul Grandgenett was All-State in soccer and inducted into the Lincoln High Athletic Hall of Fame.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- I demonstrate financial need
- I plan to major in education or related fields
- Preference will be given to athletes who were members of their LPS high school, club, or recreation league teams, particularly a gymnast, swimmer, or soccer athlete
- I am the first member of my family to attend a post-secondary institution

Janeen A. Tuning Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

The Janeen A. Tuning Memorial Scholarship was established to honor and remember career teachers. Janeen Tuning was a career teacher who taught for 40 years in the Lincoln Public Schools. Her professional life was dedicated to student learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I am pursuing post-secondary education in the field of elementary or secondary education (preference will be given to elementary education)
- I have at least a 3.0 GPA, demonstrating academic ability to achieve a teaching degree
- I will attend an accredited four-year college
- Three letters of recommendation are required

JoAnn Maxey Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,200
One scholarship awarded

Description

This memorial scholarship was established in memory of JoAnn Maxey by family members and friends. Mrs. Maxey distinguished herself as a leader in the Lincoln community. She was the first African American woman to serve as a Senator in the Nebraska legislature and a member and president of the board of the Lincoln Public Schools. While she was involved in many religious and civic activities, the education of children was her passion. Her life was characterized by perseverance, determination, hard work and dignity.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I am African-American
- I am in the top 50% of my class
- I demonstrate academic and leadership potential
- I demonstrate oral and written language ability
- I am goal-directed and recognize the benefits of education
- I demonstrate determination and commitment to further my education
- I plan to attend a two or four-year post-secondary educational institution

Essay(s)

- Describe your educational and career goals and your relationship to the qualities – perseverance, determination, hard work, and dignity – JoAnn Maxey demonstrated in her life and work. (500-word limit)

Joshua Grimes Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,100
One scholarship awarded

Description

Josh Grimes was a member of the Rebels Auto Club having joined at the suggestion of his grandfather. He had many interests including automobiles, music, debate and his 1972 Ford LTD. Together Josh and his grandfather enjoyed the association of car enthusiasts and people generally. Josh encouraged one of the instructors at Southeast High School to initiate a car club for the students at LSE so they could learn about and have fun with cars. Tommy Bender sponsored the group at Josh's urging. In March 2004, Josh was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. After Josh's death in 2006, Mr. Bender and Josh's fellow students built a car in his memory. Proceeds from a raffle of this car created the Joshua Grimes Memorial Scholarship.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I will major in auto repair, design, engineering or a related motor vehicle field
- I will attend an accredited college, junior college, trade or vocational school

Judy Besecker Lewis Early Childhood Education Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Judy Besecker Lewis earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska, and was a master's-level teacher and administrator in Early Childhood Education with Lincoln Public Schools. She taught elementary school in Columbus, Ohio, started a private kindergarten in Cumberland, Maryland, and then spent 32 years with Lincoln Public Schools, mostly with those delightful 5-year-olds in Kindergarten. She later worked a few years in LPS administration, spending many years working with long-time friend Coni Schwartz. Then "Miss Judy" spent nine years with the Springdale Public Library in Arkansas telling stories to 3- and 4-year-olds using lots of puppets and music and costumes to help tell the stories, leaving story time in good hands with Erin Renollet.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to study early childhood education
- I demonstrate financial need

Essay(s)

- What motivated you to pursue a career in early childhood education/elementary education? (500-word limit)*

Kerry R. Clark Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The intent of this scholarship is to encourage men and women to enter into Nursing. This memorial scholarship was established by the family of Kerry R. Clark. Kerry was a 1982 graduate of Lincoln Northeast High School. During his high school years, he actively sought positions and activities to assist people and animals in need. After graduation, he received an associate degree and became a certified paramedic. At the time of his death in 1988, he was a nursing student at UNMC. The family wishes to honor his memory by providing a scholarship to those seeking careers in Nursing.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior or graduate (first consideration to those attending or graduated from LNE)
- I plan or am currently enrolled in an accredited nursing program (first consideration will be male applicants)
- I rank in the top 1/3 of my class
- I emulate qualities possessed by Kerry Clark such as having potential, recognition of the benefits of education, and being goal-directed
- I demonstrate determination to complete college, in a nursing program

Liberty First Credit Union All Star Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded per Lincoln public high school

Description

This scholarship will provide one $1,000 scholarship to each Lincoln public high school for a graduating senior who has applied for, been considered for, but has not been awarded a scholarship. To be considered, applicants must be academically in good standing, involved in school activities and community service work, and demonstrate financial need.

Criteria

The scholarship fund provides a $1,000 award at each Lincoln public high school for a senior who applied for, but has not received, any other scholarship at their school and who meets the following criteria:

- Student achievement (academic, leadership, school/community service, involvement)
- Financial need

Application Process

Candidates for this scholarship will be selected from those who have applied for, but have not received, any other scholarship through their school.

Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
At least one scholarship awarded

Description

These scholarships were established by the Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel to benefit graduates of all Lancaster County high schools who will pursue a teaching career and enroll in an accredited educational institution. The LARSP scholarship committee determines the number and dollar amount of the scholarships each year based upon the quality and quantity of applications.

Criteria

- I am a Lancaster County high school senior
- I am in the top 25% of my senior class
- I plan to enroll in an accredited education institution
- I plan to become a teacher
- Three letters of recommendation are required

Essay(s)

- List any honors or distinctions (briefly describe)
- Have you received any other scholarships? If so, please list them.
- What activities do you hope to pursue in college? (500-word limit)
- Provide a brief statement of why you want to be a teacher. (500-word limit)

Lincoln Center Kiwanis Community Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
At least one scholarship awarded

Description

The Kiwanis Club of Lincoln, Nebraska - Lincoln Center (the "Club") will offer at least one $1,000 scholarship(s) to graduates of any Lincoln high school, public, private and parochial. The primary selection criteria will be the applicant's record of community service, in keeping with Kiwanis' emphasis on volunteer service to improve the lives of children as well as the Defining Statement of Kiwanis: "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time" and the Kiwanis Motto, "Serving the children of the world."

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln, Nebraska, high school senior (public, private, or parochial school)
- I plan to attend an accredited institution of post-secondary education
- I have at least 100 hours of community service (defined as voluntary activity helping others) over the past 18 months. Service performed in fulfillment of graduation requirements may be included
- Application must include two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher or counselor and one from an individual associated with community service organizations attesting to the applicant's involvement in community service efforts)
- All things being equal, secondary preference is given to a member of their high school's Key Club and/or Builder's Club

Essay(s)

Please react to ONE of the following essay questions: (500-word limit)

- The defining statement of Kiwanis International is: "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child in a community at a time." How can one person improve the world?
- The motto of Kiwanis International is: "Serving the children of the world." What have you done and what can you do to improve the lives of children?

LPS Robert O. Ifland Eagle Scout Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,100
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2014 by Margaret V. and Myrel O. Ifland in honor of their son, Robert Ifland. Robert was an Eagle Scout and a Lincoln Northeast High School graduate who demonstrated strong leadership and dedication to scouting ideals. Robert's academic record in his early years was a testament to his potential. After he became ill, his perseverance and determination to live his life to the best of his ability and never give up was an example to all who witnessed his struggle.

Criteria

- I am an LPS senior
- I am an Eagle Scout
- I plan to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- I demonstrate the qualities of Robert O. Ifland: strong leadership and a dedication to scouting ideals, and determined to live his life to the best of his ability, persevere, and never give up

Lt. Col. Paul Adams Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The Lt. Col Paul Adams Memorial Scholarship was established in 2015 by the Parent Teacher Organization of Paul Adams Elementary School, to memorialize Lt. Col. Paul Adams. Adams and the other Tuskegee Airman, though segregated from the "white" units, served their country faithfully, flying many successful missions. Adams continued to help desegregation efforts when he came to Lincoln and was one of only three black teachers in the Lincoln Public Schools District. In retirement, he continued to serve his community through Kiwanis, his church, and other community activities. Prior to his passing, he made the effort to visit the students of Adams Elementary School each school year. Lt. Col Paul Adams was especially proud that Paul Adams Elementary School was named in his honor.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I attended Adams Elementary for a minimum of one full school year
- I have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- I am involved in community engagement/volunteerism
- I show resiliency and problem-solving skills
- I will attend an accredited college or university to pursue a two or four-year degree
- I am willing and available to attend the fifth-grade recognition ceremony at Adams Elementary to speak about this award

Essay(s)

- If you are chosen and available, you will be asked to address Adams Elementary students during the fifth-grade recognition ceremony scheduled the spring following your award. What would your top three talking points for the speech be? You are encouraged to add anything about Paul Adams and/or Paul Adams Elementary and how it has positively influenced your life. (500-word limit)
- How have you given back to your community? (250-word limit)
- When in your life did you have to be resilient in reaching a goal? (250-word limit)
- What are your long-term goals? (250-word limit)

The MBB Scholarship Fund

Award Amount: $2,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship has been established by Alyssa and Adnan Begovic as a way to honor their parents, Mary & Bruce Bornman, and Mustafa & Bula Begovic, who share the initials MBB. Throughout their lives, the Bornmans and the Begovics modeled the belief that success is built on a foundation of hard work, curiosity, and a love for learning. This award is intended to support a student who embodies these values and approaches their education with enthusiasm, integrity, and a strong work ethic.

Criteria

- I am a graduating Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to pursue an education at an accredited two or four-year college or university
- All things being equal, priority may be given to students demonstrating financial need

Michael Berg Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2004 in memory of Courtney Cusick. Courtney Cusick & Michael Berg died Jan. 19, 2002 in a car accident. Both students attended the Science Focus program and were very involved in this program. After graduation and beginning college, both students came back to the Science Focus Program to promote both internally and externally.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior in the Science Focus Program
- I most exemplify what the Science Focus Program is all about
- I have made a significant contribution to the educational environment at the school

Application Process

Students are selected for this scholarship by the Science Focus Program Staff.

Montoya James Laravie (Mato Was'aka "Strong Bear") Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000 (renewable for up to four consecutive years)
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by Ms. Brenda Hoffman and Mr. Michael H. Epstein in honor of Montoya James Laravie. Montoya grew up in Lincoln, was a graduate of Lincoln High School, a member of the Lincoln High football team, and was enrolled in the TeamMates program. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 2015, Montoya attended Haskell Indian Nations University where he earned his Associate Degree in 2017, made the Dean's list and was one year away from earning his bachelor's degree. He loved the outdoors and spent many late nights fishing and camping with family and friends. He could always make people laugh and had a smile for all occasions. Montoya embraced his Native Heritage, was a drummer and singer with "Red Society" at Haskell, was a mentor with The Intergenerational Connection Project, and planned to return to Lincoln to serve as a role model for Native students.

Criteria

- I am a senior at a Lincoln, Nebraska, high school planning to attend a two or four-year post-secondary educational institution
  - First preference goes to members of the Ponca or Lakota tribes graduating from Lincoln High School.
  - Second preference goes to members of any Native American tribe graduating from Lincoln High School.
  - Third preference goes to members of the Ponca or Lakota tribes graduating from any LPS high school.
  - Fourth preference goes to members of any Native American tribe graduating from any LPS high school.
  - Must demonstrate financial need
- Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, fees, books, room and board, or other expenses to maintain student's eligibility in college.

Application

You can apply to this scholarship using the general application or through the alternate application found at this link: https://forms.gle/og7SJk9xoehuVfuy7

Native American Student Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
At least one scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship has been established in memory of Paul Brauch by his family and friends. The intent of the scholarship is to encourage a graduating Native American senior or LPS graduate to pursue further education.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior or graduate
- I am Native American as designated on my school census form
- I have a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- I will attend a post-secondary institution or training program
- I demonstrate determination and commitment to further my education
- Preference to students seeking post-secondary education in the trades, engineering, human services, or education

Randy L. Fleming CAI Real Estate, Andrews, Borcher, Cummings, Scholarship Fund

Award Amount: $1,800
One scholarship awarded

Description

Randy L. Fleming CAI, a professional auctioneer and real estate broker for 24 and 22 years respectively, strongly believes that continued education combined with practical experience is essential in providing the highest degree of professionalism and integrity in the auction profession. This scholarship is for that person who aspires to help raise the standard in the auctioning or selling of real estate. This fund is also in honor of Mel & Margaret Andrews, Landis & Ruth Borcher, and Ruth & Al Cummings.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I have maintained a 2.5 GPA or higher
- I plan to pursue a trade school degree–priority to applicants entering real estate/general auction fields of study OR I am actively involved in church and am planning a degree related to ministry OR I am actively involved in Rainbow Girls, Jobs Daughters, DeMolay Scouting or 4H
- If involved in church ministry, one reference must be from a pastor

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Freedom Scholarships

Award Amount: $1,000
Five scholarships awarded

Description

This award is made possible by surplus revenues realized from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Breakfast. Five scholarship awards will be given to students who represent diverse backgrounds and meet the selection criteria.

Criteria

- Is committed to civil rights, justice, and the teachings of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (see essay question)
- Demonstrates financial need (see essay question)
- LPS graduating seniors
- Plans to attend a not-for-profit, post-secondary educational institution in Nebraska
- 2.5 GPA or higher
- High involvement in school, community, and family

Essay(s)

- Describe your financial need (500 words or fewer).*
- Describe how you are committed to civil rights, justice, and the teachings of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (500 words or fewer).

Richard & Verna Schwieger Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2004 by Jan Gurney and Diane Schwieger in honor of their parents, Richard and Verna Schwieger. Richard worked in the Lincoln Public Schools as a maintenance professional for 25 years and his wife Verna was an accomplished homemaker. Both Richard and Verna were outstanding community volunteers and demonstrated this most important attribute to their daughters.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to pursue a medical or health related field of study
- I have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- I demonstrate financial need (need will be a consideration and the student's effort to contribute to, or participate in, their education financially will be considered)
- I participate in community service/volunteer activities beyond the required service hours for graduation

Robert & Burnita Den Hartog Family Technology Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2004 by Burnita Den Hartog in honor of her family and Robert Den Hartog who served the Lincoln Public Schools as Associate Superintendent for Business Affairs for 19 years. Burnita taught for the Lincoln Public Schools for 21 years at Randolph Elementary School. Their children Bobi Kai and Kevin attended Lincoln Public Schools from kindergarten through their graduation. All members of the Den Hartog family have used technology extensively in their careers.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to attend a college, university or technical school
- I plan to pursue a career in the field of technology
- I maintain good grades but I am not necessarily in the top 25% of my class
- I am honest, reliable and have interest and the ability to pursue a career in technology
- Secondary preference may be given to those who demonstrate financial need

Sally G. and David S. Wysong Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $4,600
One scholarship awarded, renewable for 4 years at $4,600/year with a $5,000 completion bonus
after final year of college or university

Description

This scholarship was established in memory of Sally Wysong by her family and friends. Sally, an early childhood education advocate and owner and operator of the Meadowlane Nursery School, served the Lincoln community as a Board of Education member from 1991 to 1999.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I will attend an accredited four-year college or university
- I plan to pursue Early Childhood/Elementary Education through my junior and senior post-secondary collegiate career

Shirley Larson Fine Arts Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 1993 by Roger and Shirley Larson.

Criteria

- I plan to attend a four-year accredited college or university
- I have been active in the fine arts prior to graduation
- I plan to major in the arts in college

Wally McNaught Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,700
One scholarship awarded

Description

A longtime coach and athletic director at Lincoln Southeast High School, Wally McNaught was involved in high school sports for more than 45 years. He was a teacher, coach and athletic director at LSE from 1963 to 1993, and is fondly remembered by many, many students as the person who most influenced their lives. He led Southeast to the boys' state basketball tournament five times. While serving as LSE Athletic Director from 1985-93, the Knights established a dynasty, winning 27 state team championships. It was in Coach McNaught's honor that the LSE mascot was named "Wally McKnight." Wally McNaught helped set up the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame and in 2010, Wally McNaught was inducted as an inaugural member of the LSE Hall of Fame. Despite these and numerous other awards and achievements, Wally McNaught is most remembered for his interest and focus on students.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout my high school career
- I have demonstrated respect for others and commitment to working towards a set of goals

Scholarships for East High School Students

Andrea (Baker) Kabourek “I Can, I Will’ Cross Country Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Andrea Kabourek and her “I CAN, I WILL!” spirit. Andrea taught English at Lincoln East High School for 15 years where she also coached cross country and track. She was a member of four state championship teams at Lincoln Southeast High School where she won an individual medal each of those years. She was also an All-American in cross country at Nebraska Wesleyan where she earned her bachelor’s degree. Andrea loved travel and immersed herself in the people and cultures of the 25 countries she visited.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- I have been a member of the LEH cross country team for at least one year
- I will attend a two or four-year post-secondary educational institution
- Preference will be given to students demonstrating an ability to overcome obstacles, a commitment to school-wide involvement through various LEH activities/organizations and a commitment to community service

Essay(s)

- Describe how you overcame an obstacle by exemplifying Andrea’s “I Can, I Will” spirit. (500-word limit)

Bruce Bunde Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,200
One scholarship awarded

Description

This memorial scholarship was created to honor the life and legacy of Bruce Bunde, a man who truly embodied the spirit of a lifelong learner. Bruce graduated from high school in Cozad, NE, and continued his studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education and History, subjects that would remain close to his heart. He treasured his time playing trumpet in the Cornhusker marching band, minored in Music, and maintained a lifelong interest in all types of music. His love of learning never faded; he was rarely seen without a book in hand, usually history, the more ancient the better, and he continued taking classes throughout his life. He had a natural curiosity and gentle way of teaching, often turning a casual conversation into a meaningful one by imparting knowledge or wisdom to those around him. Bruce and his wife raised three children, all of whom graduated from Lincoln East and were active in a variety of activities. Bruce's life was one of hard work, quiet perseverance, deep loyalty, and above all, love for his family and friends. The scholarship stands as a tribute to his generous spirit and enduring belief in the power of education.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I plan to pursue an education, history, or music degree
- I will attend a two or four-year accredited college or university
- All things being equal, priority may be given to students who participated in the marching band.

Essay(s)

- Briefly explain why you chose the major/field of study of education, history, or music.

Jon Peterson/East Singers Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,200
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by East High School Singers Alumni to honor Director Jon Peterson. This scholarship will reward a diligent graduating Singer who plans to further his or her education and has benefited from his or her Singer's experience. It will not be based on need or academic success or future area of study.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I am a member or former member of the East Singers

LEH Class of 1973 Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established by the Lincoln East High School Class of 1973. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior at Lincoln East High School.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I plan to attend a two or four-year public or private college or university, trade school, or community college
- I demonstrate the following qualities: a sense of fairness, integrity, pride in commitment to education and community, pursuit of athletic and scholastic achievement, independence of individual thought and action, a willingness to continually challenge and be challenged

LEH Paul and Anne Forch Science Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Lincoln East High School, Paul and Anne Forch will celebrate the legacy of LEH excellence in science with this college scholarship.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- I am a well-rounded student
- I am involved in the community, school activities/athletics or have a job
- I am interested in pursuing a career in science or related field
- I plan to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or Kearney
- I demonstrate financial need

Mike Janesch Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Created in 2021, this scholarship will help Lincoln East High School students who plan to pursue a post-secondary education. Mike Janesch's teaching and coaching career started at Raymond Central High School in 1975. He later taught health and PE at Goodrich Middle School while coaching football at Lincoln High. He finished his teaching career at East High School where he taught Drivers' Ed., PE and health. He continued coaching football at East through 2019. Mike's passions were family, friends, football and helping kids realize and fulfill their potential.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need
- I have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.3
- Secondary consideration to students who participate in either football or track at East High

Myron & Marilyn Oehlerking Family Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in the spring of 1996 by the Myron and Marilyn Oehlerking Family. Myron Oehlerking started his teaching and coaching career in Lincoln at Lefler Junior High School and moved to Lincoln East to teach physical education and coach when the new school opened. He started the volleyball program at Lincoln East in 1972 and, over a 37-year span, led the Spartans to 793 wins, 22 state tournament appearances and six state championships. His 1994 East squad was ranked No. 1 nationally by USA Today. When he retired following the 2008 season, Oehlerking left as the all-time winningest coach in Nebraska high school history. Myron also coached girls' track at Lincoln East from 1974 to 1995. Marilyn taught third and fourth grades for 36 years at Calvert Elementary School. She supported Myron's coaching and enjoyed the relationships with the girls and their families. After her retirement, she continued to volunteer at the Elmwood-Murdock Elementary School. Myron and Marilyn's daughters, Barb Nelson and Myrna Bornemeier, are both LPS teachers.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln East High School senior
- I am a female varsity athlete
- I rank in the top 50% of my class
- I plan to attend a two or four-year college or university

Scholarships for Lincoln High School Students

Alden Johnson Family Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established as an expression of appreciation to the Lincoln Public Schools by the Alden and Shirley Johnson family. Aldie Johnson was a Lincoln High teacher/coach for 32 years and Shirley served the elementary schools of Norwood Park, Hayward, Holmes, Bethany and Eastridge for a like number of years. Aldie was active in the Lincoln community. Their sons Jeff and Lee, both graduates of Lincoln High School, were active in the school's athletic programs, each having taught for seven years in the Lincoln system.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I will pursue a degree in education
- I am in the top 50% of my class
- I demonstrate qualities of citizenship
- I will attend an accredited two or four-year public or private college or university
- I demonstrate financial need

Arlene Spader Oberg Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Arlene Spader Oberg (1915-2010) attended Garr Creek one-room elementary school in rural northeast Lancaster County, Nebraska, and graduated from Havelock High School in 1932. She went on to the University of Nebraska until 1934, studying Latin, botany, and education, after which she taught in rural schools in Lancaster and Butler counties during the Dust Bowl. She and her pupils sealed cracks and crevices and wore handkerchiefs over their faces to fight the dust. In emergencies, she carried ailing pupils home to their farm families. After marriage in 1937, she continued to teach as a substitute and to grade examination papers for the Lancaster County Superintendent. In the 1940s and 1950s, living on a farm, she was active in County Home Extension clubs and in the school activities of her four children, always applying her skills and high standards as a teacher. She read to children at weekend reading groups in Waverly. In the 1960s, she returned to the university to pursue a bachelor's degree and subsequently worked in the Lincoln Public Schools' administration. After retirement, she found joy in nature, whether planting trees or walking on the prairie, always eager to learn more. She and her husband, Howard Oberg, joined the Peace Corps in 1977 and served in El Salvador. The Arlene Spader Oberg Scholarship is a $1,000 award made annually to a senior at Lincoln Northeast High School (formerly Havelock High) or Lincoln High to support college studies in education or the social sciences. The award is made to help the student pursue a career that aligns with the lifelong dedication and high educational standards of Arlene Spader Oberg. The award is likewise made in honor of all past Havelock High School graduates who have made positive contributions to their community, state, and country.

Criteria

- I am a high school senior at Lincoln High School or Lincoln Northeast High School.
- I plan to attend a two or four-year accredited college or university
- I plan to pursue a degree in teaching or social sciences

Anne S. Buntain Scholarship

Award Amount: $3,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in memory of Anne Buntain, a 1982 graduate of Lincoln High School. Anne, who died in 1998, loved theater, film, and dance. She was a member of Lincoln High School Student Council, the Pomalinks Drill Team, Girls State, and National Honor Society. She enjoyed performing on the Lincoln High stage or Pinewood Bowl, and loved going to concerts and Broadway musicals.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I rank in the top 25% of my graduating class
- I will attend an accredited two or four-year college or university
- I demonstrate financial need
- Preference will be given to applicants who have participated in art, theatre or music in high school
- Students who have been in drug/alcohol treatment programs will also be considered for this scholarship

Bob and Susan White Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Bob White retired May 21, 2021, ending a 43-year career as a teacher and coach where his work as a track coach at Lincoln High shaped generations of Links. The end of his teaching career reflected his teaching philosophy. He delayed his retirement by a year because of the Covid-19 pandemic so he could take the track team to the State Tournament one more time. In coaching, as in teaching, his priority was giving students every opportunity to learn, succeed, and grow. White began as an assistant coach in 1978 and took over as head coach in 1983. In 2018, Lincoln High won the State Tournament for the first time since 1960; they dedicated that championship to White. This scholarship was created in 2021 to encourage students to reach their full potential and to serve as a capstone of a four-decade career focused on helping Lincoln High students.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I participated in track and field at Lincoln High School
- I have a GPA of 2.5 or higher

Coach Al Schnabel Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Al Schnabel was a coach for 27 years and coached basketball at Lincoln High the last five years of his life. He believed in the importance of athletics but always believed that academics came first. He was recognized for his ability to motivate his teams and his students.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I am involved in athletics
- My performance consistently equals or exceeds my ability scholastically and athletically
- I exhibit a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and enjoy participating as a leader in and out of the classroom
- I have a GPA of 2.75 or higher
- I plan to attend an accredited post-secondary institution
- All things being equal, secondary preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need

Donald J. Loudon Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,350
One scholarship awarded

Description

Donald J. Loudon was born in Grant, NE, in 1926, and his family eventually moved to Lincoln. Don graduated from Lincoln High School in 1944 where he graduated first in his class. He went on to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. After fulfilling his service commitment and attaining the rank of Lieutenant, Donald remained in the Naval Reserves and eventually earned the rank of Captain. While serving in the Navy from 1948-1953 he sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Looking up he said, "I'm going to live in this city someday." After his discharge from the Navy, he earned his MBA at Stanford University. He then worked as a stock broker in San Francisco until he retired in 1976. Don never had children of his own, but he was a generous uncle to his nieces and nephews, helping them with college and other expenses. Donald was a strong believer that education can make a difference in someone's life. He graduated at the top of his class in high school, in the top third of his Naval Academy class, and top of his business school class. It was his education that allowed him to attain business and financial success. Donald's very generous gift to his family after his death makes this scholarship possible. His family wishes to honor his memory by helping others pursue their dreams through further education, just as their Uncle Donald did.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I plan to pursue a two or four-year degree at a nonprofit postsecondary institution
- I demonstrate financial need (but I don't necessarily qualify for free/reduced lunch)
- Secondary preference given to students who are first generation college students, come from compelling home circumstances, and who had significant outside employment during high school

Essay(s)

- What significant challenges/compelling home circumstances have you overcome in your life? (500-word limit)*
- Why do you think you can succeed at college? (500-word limit)*
- Would you be able to attend college without financial assistance, such as this scholarship? Please describe. (500-word limit)*

Dr. William R. Weyhrauch Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Dr. William R. Weyhrauch by his family.

Criteria

- I am either a Lincoln High or Southeast High senior
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- I am a community volunteer with a record of community service
- I am involved in extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to, athletics with a special interest in swimming or diving
- I have an interest in the sciences with plans to pursue a post-secondary education studying sciences
- I display traits of a good citizen who is kind and honest, and I exhibit leadership qualities with a love for learning

Dr. Marilynn Larson Scholarship for Women in Science

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

At Lincoln High our Principal, Mark Larson, consistently professes the traits of grit, effort, and attitude. Consequently, I am surrounded by students and staff who practice these behaviors. However, the one person in my life who embodies these traits more than anyone I know is my best friend of over 30 years, Dr. Marilynn Larson. Ms. Larson has focused her entire life on setting goals, and doing her honest best to get the most out of her time and efforts; and it hasn't always been easy. Not only that, she is a caring and empathetic person who tries just as hard to help others be successful and work together as a team. It is in her honor that this scholarship is provided. The scholarship promotes the study of science to a Lincoln High graduate who has overcome significant obstacles in her high school experience, and exhibited the traits of grit, effort, attitude, empathy, and teamwork.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I am female
- I plan to major in the sciences
- I demonstrate financial need
- I plan to attend a four-year or two-year institution
- I have overcome significant obstacles in my high school experience, and I exhibit the traits of grit, effort, attitude, empathy, and teamwork

Essay(s)

- Describe any significant obstacles you have faced in your life and how you overcame them. (500-word limit)

Elsie Shandera Teague Nursing Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,150
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by Elsie Shandera Teague, a 1935 graduate of Lincoln High School and a graduate of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. Elsie worked as a registered nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital and at the Burlington Northern Railroad Medical Department. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage young women and men to enter the nursing profession and become a registered nurse.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior or previous LHS graduate
- I plan to enroll in an accredited nursing program or am currently enrolled in an accredited nursing program
    - I am maintaining a B average or above (students currently enrolled in nursing program)

Essay(s)

- Why are you the best candidate for this award? (500-word limit)

Garrison Avery Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Created in 2020 by his West Point classmates and friends who wanted to remember Garrison C. Avery, his character, his values, and his accomplishments - the Garrison Avery Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to students of character who have overcome obstacles and are still achieving their goals. Garrison C. Avery was a 2000 graduate of Lincoln High whose discipline, modesty, and compassion made an impression on many of his friends. He participated in ROTC at Lincoln High and demonstrated a talent for math and science. He loved to learn and mentioned the influence a combined physics and calculus class at Lincoln High had on his learning. The class prepared him for the method of teaching at West Point.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need and have overcome adversity to excel
- I have public service goals or I have undertaken efforts to help others (philanthropy, community service, etc.)
- I am seeking a career in the military, or I have military aspirations like ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps)
- I have a GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Secondary consideration:
  - Any LPS high school senior
  - Children or relatives of military service members

Essay(s)

- What significant challenges/compelling home circumstances have you overcome in your life? (500-word limit)*
- Describe your public service or military aspirations. (500-word limit)

Glenn W. & Alice May Updegraft Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Mr. Glenn W. Updegraft by Alice May Updegraft. Mr. Updegraft was a highly regarded LHS teacher of manual arts and mathematics known to his students as Mr. Upty. Mr. and Mrs. Updegraft met while teaching in the same school, Whittier Junior High School. After teaching American History and Modern Problems at Whittier, Alice May became a counselor at Lincoln High. She describes this part of her life as the "most satisfying assignment I ever had." Mrs. Updegraft died in 1999.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need
- I demonstrate an ability and desire to further my education
- I have excelled in industrial arts or mathematics

Hugo A. Aspegren Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,750
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by Hugo A. Aspegren–a member of the 1933 graduating senior class of Lincoln High and Business Manager of the 1933 Links.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior or previous LHS graduate within the last two years (all things being equal, preference shall be given to a current graduate)
- I plan to obtain a two or four-year degree at an accredited institution
- I demonstrate financial need
- I have a GPA of 3.8 or higher
- I have participated in at least two extracurricular activities

John Dennis Stubbs & Nancy Constantino Stubbs Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $6,100
One scholarship awarded

Description

John Dennis Stubbs was a 1937 graduate of Lincoln High School. After a distinguished career as a Naval officer, John worked in technology for Edison Electric in Boston. John never forgot his alma mater and the opportunities his K-12 education in Lincoln afforded him. John's wife, Nancy Constantino Stubbs, was born in the Boston area and was a long-time employee of the Hood Rubber Company.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I rank in the top 50% of my class
- I will attend an accredited four-year college or university
- I demonstrate financial need

Essay(s)

- How have your experiences at Lincoln High School enriched your life? (500-word limit)

LHS Bill Pfeiff Football Scholarship

Award Amount: $5,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

In honor of and to show respect, the Bill Pfeiff Football Scholarship was established by former football players and students who attended Lincoln High School during Coach Bill Pfeiff's career. William 'Bill' Pfeiff was a Nebraska High School Hall of Fame member and a Husker football and track standout. Bill graduated from Lincoln High in

6. 1936. During his senior year he was a Nebraska All-State Football player and set the Nebraska State shotput record that lasted for 19 years. Bill attended the University of Nebraska where he was a football and track standout. He served as a graduate assistant for Nebraska's 1941 Rose Bowl team and spent one season as Nebraska freshman football coach. Bill returned to Lincoln High School in 1946 after his World War II military service and spent 10 years as teacher and football coach, winning three state championships. Coach Pfeiff also coached track for six years winning one state title. In 1955, Coach Pfeiff began his career as Dean of Boys and Director of Activities at Lincoln High. He spent 23 years as an administrator for the Links and served on the Nebraska State Activities Association Board of Control for several terms. The Lincoln High Football field is named after Bill Pfeiff –The Pfeiff Field. Bill was married to Dorothy for 54 years and they had three children - all Links; William Paul (class of '60), Lawrence 'Biff' (class of '61) and Helen Elizabeth (class of '64). Through his years Coach Pfeiff was dedicated to and very proud of the Links! The criteria for this award is inherent of the young men who compiled an outstanding overall record from 1946- 1955 and subsequently are the basis for this award.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior football player
- I am pursuing a post-secondary education, trade-profession, or technical trade
- I rank high in: Desire to 'get the job done' and succeed regardless of conditions and situations; being known to be a physical, rugged player who can 'hit hard' ; good physical skills, such as running/passing/kicking/blocking and tackling.
- I rank high among coaching staff at LHS in the following areas: good physical health, positive frame of mind/ outlook, overall positive LHS football experience

Lois I. Johnson Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,800
One scholarship awarded

Description

Lois I. Johnson attended Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE and eventually earned her Doctorate in Education. Lois worked for the National Association for Childhood Education in Washington D.C., where her Aunt Evelyn served as President Kennedy's personal secretary. Due to family illness, Lois returned to Lincoln and eventually taught in almost every school in Lincoln. Lois named Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools a beneficiary of her will and set up an invested fund to annually pay for college scholarships for students graduating from Lincoln Public Schools and interested in teaching careers. Lois thoughtfully researched where she'd like to designate her charitable giving and included the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools because of her long and rewarding career in teaching.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I am pursuing a post-secondary education
- I am pursuing a teaching degree
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher

Montoya James Laravie (Mato Was'aka "Strong Bear") Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000 (renewable for up to four consecutive years)
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by Ms. Brenda Hoffman and Mr. Michael H. Epstein in honor of Montoya James Laravie. Montoya grew up in Lincoln, was a graduate of Lincoln High School, a member of the Lincoln High football team, and was enrolled in the TeamMates program. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 2015, Montoya attended Haskell Indian Nations University where he earned his Associate Degree in 2017, made the Dean's list and was one year away from earning his bachelor's degree. He loved the outdoors and spent many late nights fishing and camping with family and friends. He could always make people laugh and had a smile for all occasions. Montoya embraced his Native Heritage, was a drummer and singer with "Red Society" at Haskell, was a mentor with The Intergenerational Connection Project, and planned to return to Lincoln to serve as a role model for Native students.

Criteria

- I am a senior at a Lincoln, Nebraska, high school planning to attend a two or four-year post-secondary educational institution
  - First preference goes to members of the Ponca or Lakota tribes graduating from Lincoln High School.
  - Second preference goes to members of any Native American tribe graduating from Lincoln High School.
  - Third preference goes to members of the Ponca or Lakota tribes graduating from any LPS high school.
  - Fourth preference goes to members of any Native American tribe graduating from any LPS high school.
  - Must demonstrate financial need
- Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, fees, books, room and board, or other expenses to maintain student's eligibility in college.

Application

You can apply to this scholarship using the general application or through the alternate application found at this link: https://forms.gle/og7SJk9xoehuVfuy7

Ralph W. & Frances Ash Beechner Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in recognition of the many years Ralph W. Beechner and Frances Ash Beechner spent teaching, coaching, parenting and volunteering in Lincoln Public Schools. Ralph was with LPS for 42 years, first teaching and coaching at Jackson High and LHS then serving as the Athletic Director at Lincoln High and culminated his career as the Lincoln Public Schools City-Wide Athletic Director from 1952-1972. He was an LHS graduate as were his three children Dick (LHS ‘52) and Barbara (LHS ‘56) and Sam (LHS ‘65). His wife Frances served as the Assistant Director of Recreation for the City of Lincoln and the Supervisor of the Elementary Physical Education program for Lincoln Public Schools before staying home to raise their children. She spent a lifetime as a volunteer for numerous organizations that benefit children and youth and the community. It was Frances’ desire to help students from LHS pursue a career in the field of athletics or physical education or parks and recreation.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I plan on pursuing an interest in the field of athletics, physical education, or parks and recreation
- I will attend an accredited two or four-year public or private college or university

Roderick R. Hernandez Latinx Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Roderick R. Hernandez was born and raised in Lincoln. A son of former Mexican migrant workers, Rod dedicated his life to education, politics, and Chicano art and advancement. Rod's father (Rueben Alvarez Hernandez) enlisted in the Navy in WWII and used the G.I. Bill to get an education and provide a better future for his family. Rod was the first in his family to earn an undergraduate and graduate college degree. During his time at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he was one of the founders of the Mexican-American Student Association (MASA), was the vice-president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN), taught with the High School Equivalency Program, and as a student-teacher at Lincoln High, advocated for better college preparedness for Black, Indigenous, and students of color. Throughout his life, Rod was passionate about the arts, becoming an active glassblower and jeweler in the Omaha art community. In his retirement, he volunteered at the Joslyn Art Museum, and supported El Museo Latino in Omaha.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I am a student of Latinx descent
- I plan to attend a post-secondary institution
- I have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Secondary consideration will be given to students with:
    - An interest in the arts/creative process (see essay question below)
    - Financial need

Essay(s)

- Describe how fine art and/or the creative process has impacted your world view. Or demonstrate how fine art and/or the creative process has influenced your life. (500-word limit)

Sarah Skean Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Sarah Skean, a graduate of Lincoln High School and teacher at Lincoln Northeast High School.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High or Northeast High senior or graduate
- I will major in Secondary English Education
- I will attend, or am currently attending, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Stephen and Marcella Nelsen LHS & LSE Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Established by Son Q. Tran, M.D. (LSE ’93) in 2019, this scholarship honors Stephen and Marcella Nelsen who set remarkable examples of love, dedication, and support for their students. Steve was one of the inspirational teachers who provided encouragement and support as Son pursued his career in science/medicine.

Criteria

- For students graduating from Southeast High School, Lincoln High or the LPS Science Focus Program.
- For any student choosing to major in Education
    - Primary consideration goes to students focusing their education majors toward Science, Foreign Languages, or English Language Learners.
- Preference to students from low-income families or who have overcome adversity to excel academically.
- It is not necessary for the recipient to be at the top of his or her class academically; rather, the donor prefers recipients to demonstrate promise and growth and be fully committed to their education.
- Successful applicants will display traits of a good citizen who is kind, honest, and respectful, with a love for learning other cultures; and exhibits leadership qualities.
- Students may attend any accredited college or university, including community colleges.
- Please submit at least two letters of recommendation that include statements about your promise and growth as a high school student.
- In the event no applicants qualify for this scholarship, the criteria can be broadened to include any LPS graduate.

Sughroue Peterson Education Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship honors two families which have historic ties to Lincoln High School. Part of this fund was established by the children of Gerald and Ann Sughroue and honors Gerald Sughroue, a long-time teacher, coach and administrator, who spent his entire career in the education field, and also honors Ann Sughroue who started her working life as a teacher. The Sughroues had a special relationship with Lincoln High, as Ann retired from the LHS office and all six children were Links. This scholarship will provide an annual award to a Lincoln High School senior planning a career in education. Another part of this fund honors Dorothy Marie Vogelgesang Peterson who was a 1933 graduate of Lincoln High. She was an excellent student and a superb speller. However, graduating during the Great Depression meant she went to work after high school to help support her family. She encouraged her children and grandchildren to attend college and would be proud to know all of her grandchildren are college graduates. This scholarship has been established by her children and grandchildren to honor her love of learning.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High School senior
- I am in good academic standing
- I plan to attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution
- I plan to pursue a career in education
- Preference to students with financial need

Essay(s)

- Describe your experiences in high school. (500-word limit)

Scholarships for North Star High School Students

LNS Matthew Leach Unified Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Lincoln North Star graduate Matthew Leach and provide assistance for students who were involved in the North Star Unified program and want to continue their education by pursuing a degree in Special Education or a degree that supports individuals with special needs. Matthew Leach was not a stranger in the hallways of North Star High School. Students would call his name in greeting. It was hit-or-miss if he responded as he was a man of focus trying to get to class to see his friends, which included the staff. In his spare time, Matthew enjoyed playing with toy cars, cracking jokes, and swimming. In school, he branched out when it came to extracurricular activities. The more North Star pushed for inclusion in the classrooms and athletics, the more Matthew wanted to get involved. He aspired to do his best on the Unified Bowling and Unified Track team and the partners who guided him were always positive and willing to help. A couple of times a month, he would participate in North Star's Unified Club where students in the Life Skills program and their partners would do fun activities together. Matthew's favorite activity in Unified PE was going swimming. He would stare at the ceiling while floating on his back with the biggest smile on his face. Because of Matthew, and so many students like him, there has been an increase in awareness with students with special needs and an increase in interest in the field of Special Education. In his memory, his former staff members wanted a way to help support the students who have given their time, energy, and dedication to the Unified program at North Star as a small token of their appreciation.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln North Star senior planning to attend a two or four-year accredited college or university the fall following graduation
- I have participated in three or more Unified classes and/or extracurricular activities (one full semester counts as one; a full season of an extracurricular activity counts as one)
- I am a student pursuing a degree in Special Education or going into a field that supports individuals with special needs (SLP, OT, PT, Vision, etc.).

Essay(s)

- What was your involvement with the North Star Unified Program? What classes did you take and/or extracurricular activities? What did the Unified Program at North Star mean to you as a student and how did it help guide you into choosing your career?

Magnolia Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in 2018 to help students who need a boost to go to college. John Beck appreciates the value of education and wants to help provide the opportunity of an education. It was a foregone conclusion that John himself would go to college. “Having an education sets you up for better accidents,” Beck said, citing a line from “The Sirens of Titan” by Kurt Vonnegut Jr.: “I was a victim of a series of accidents, as are we all.”

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln North Star, Northeast, or Yankee Hill Education Center senior
- I have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.5
- I have overcome great odds to graduate and this scholarship will make a significant difference
- I plan to attend a four-year post-secondary educational institution

Essay(s)

- Write an essay on this year’s topic of: Becoming. Essays may be fiction, non-fiction, autobiographical, poetic; whatever you feel is the best way to express your thoughts. The topic is intentionally open to interpretation. While writing style, grammar and spelling will inevitably be considered, applicants’ ideas will be of primary interest to the selection committee. (500-word limit)
- How will this scholarship help you reach your educational goals? (100-word limit)

Vicki Bourg Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $4,000 ($2,000 for the first year in college, and $2,000 for the second year in college)
One scholarship awarded

Description

Officer Vicki Bourg was the Lincoln North Star resource officer from the school's inception in 2002, until her death in January of 2011. Vicki was a decorated Lincoln Police Officer who loved her job, the outdoors and most importantly, the students at Lincoln North Star High School. Officer Bourg was a tireless advocate for the students at North Star and held a unique gift in her ability to build relationships with students who needed a caring adult. The young people she worked with always understood that Vicki was primarily a person who sincerely cared, she just happened to be a Lincoln police officer.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln North Star senior
- I demonstrate financial need
- I am a student who has demonstrated character and has a clear goal of improving myself for the future
- I am a student who has worked through adversity in my life

Essay(s)

- How will this scholarship be used to further your career and development goals and how did attending Lincoln North Star affect your development? (500-word limit)
- Describe what adversity you have experienced and how you overcame it. (500-word limit)

Scholarships for Northeast High School Students

Arlene Spader Oberg Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Arlene Spader Oberg (1915-2010) attended Garr Creek one-room elementary school in rural northeast Lancaster County, Nebraska, and graduated from Havelock High School in 1932. She went on to the University of Nebraska until 1934, studying Latin, botany, and education, after which she taught in rural schools in Lancaster and Butler counties during the Dust Bowl. She and her pupils sealed cracks and crevices and wore handkerchiefs over their faces to fight the dust. In emergencies, she carried ailing pupils home to their farm families. After marriage in 1937, she continued to teach as a substitute and to grade examination papers for the Lancaster County Superintendent. In the 1940s and 1950s, living on a farm, she was active in County Home Extension clubs and in the school activities of her four children, always applying her skills and high standards as a teacher. She read to children at weekend reading groups in Waverly. In the 1960s, she returned to the university to pursue a bachelor's degree and subsequently worked in the Lincoln Public Schools' administration. After retirement, she found joy in nature, whether planting trees or walking on the prairie, always eager to learn more. She and her husband, Howard Oberg, joined the Peace Corps in 1977 and served in El Salvador. The Arlene Spader Oberg Scholarship is a $1,000 award made annually to a senior at Lincoln Northeast High School (formerly Havelock High) or Lincoln High to support college studies in education or the social sciences. The award is made to help the student pursue a career that aligns with the lifelong dedication and high educational standards of Arlene Spader Oberg. The award is likewise made in honor of all past Havelock High School graduates who have made positive contributions to their community, state, and country.

Criteria

- I am a high school senior at Lincoln High School or Lincoln Northeast High School.
- I plan to attend a two or four-year accredited college or university
- I plan to pursue a degree in teaching or social sciences

Cara Nickolaus Memorial Scholarship Fund

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Cara Anne Nickolaus, daughter of Lowell and Jane Nickolaus. Cara was a 2009 graduate of Lincoln Northeast. She graduated from Washington University in St Louis in 2013. She was working on her PhD in Economics in Cambridge at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the time of her death.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I am female
- I demonstrate academic achievement
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- I plan to attend a four-year university
- I plan to pursue a degree in math, economics, engineering, science, or related field
- In the event that no one meets the degree criteria, a female student with a demonstrated passion for academics will be considered
- Financial need will not be a consideration for this scholarship

Essay(s)

- How will the Cara Nickolaus Memorial Scholarship impact your plans for the future? (500-word limit)

Doug Kaltenberger “Coach K” Memorial Baseball Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
Two scholarships awarded: one student from LNE and one student from LSW

Description

The scholarship was established in 2016 by Susan Kaltenberger and her children, Jessica, Megan and David, in memory of their husband and father, Doug. Doug spent a 31-year career in Lincoln Public Schools teaching health education and coaching. He spent 17 years at Northeast High School as a teacher, basketball coach and baseball coach. He finished his career at Southwest High School where he taught and built the foundation for the baseball program. Doug always told his players to use baseball to get an education, not the other way around. He often said, ‘It’s a beautiful day folks! Holy cow, life is good!” He guided hundreds of students through life, school, and sports.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast or Southwest High School senior
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- I am a current varsity baseball player
- Preference is given to those pursuing baseball in college
- I am enthusiastic, I lead by example, on and off the field, I work hard and hustle, I have a great work ethic, in the classroom and on the field, and I have a positive attitude
- I am a person of outstanding character (trustworthy, role model for teammates, honest, sacrifices for the team, takes responsibility for his actions, sense of humor)
- I pick up my teammates, am a good communicator, am a motivator, and am respected by my teammates

Dr. Brad Paulson Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created by the friends and family of Dr. Brad Paulson who was a 1963 graduate of Northeast High School and who went on to become an anesthesiologist in Omaha.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior (attended at least my junior and senior years at LNE)
- I will attend a four-year college or university
- I have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.5
- I demonstrate determination to complete college
- I have potential and recognize the benefit of education and am goal directed
- I demonstrate financial need and have not received other significant financial recognition or scholarships

Essay(s)

- Describe the importance of this scholarship in the overall support of your education. (500-word limit)
- How do you envision you might describe yourself ten years from now? Include events you foresee during the next ten years and how you will arrive at “ten years from now.” (500-word limit)

Evans Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship is named after the Evans family, who have been active in public education in Lincoln and around the world. Milton Evans created the American Dependent Schools in Germany after World War II and served Nebraska Wesleyan University as head of the Education Department, Dean of Students and VP in charge of Student Affairs. Leola Evans taught at Whittier and Dawes and was a pioneer in fighting for women's rights in the education field, challenging the rules and becoming the first teacher to be allowed to teach while visibly pregnant. Doug Evans taught at Pershing College in Beatrice, the Nebraska State Penitentiary and Southeast Community College, in addition to serving 18 years on the LPS Board of Education. Barbara Borgens Evans served as reading consultant for the Beatrice and Waverly school districts and taught at Nebraska Wesleyan and for the Lincoln Public Schools. Sheila Evans taught at Omaha suburban schools before becoming a corporate executive for Sprint. She now serves as the Executive Director of the Allentown, PA Symphony.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I participate in extra-curricular activities at Northeast
- I rank in the top 33% of my class

Essay(s)

- Describe the most fun you had in high school. (500-word limit)

George & Helen Thacker Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created by Mary Jo Thacker Forbes and Bob Thacker, both graduates of Lincoln Northeast High School in memory of their parents who were longtime residents of Northeast Lincoln. In the course of nearly fifty years, George and Helen Thacker quietly without recognition, gave a great deal of themselves to help support the activities of young people in the community. They served the school, church, youth organizations and the community in numerous volunteer activities. People always turned to George and Helen Thacker for help and assistance. This example of selflessness was an inspiration not only for their children and grandchildren, but for many others as well. In creating this scholarship in honor of George and Helen Thacker, it is the family's desire that others may be recognized so that this legacy of self-sacrifice will continue at Lincoln Northeast for many years to come.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I plan to attend an accredited four-year post-secondary institution
- I best epitomize a genuine spirit of self-sacrifice and service to both LNE and the greater community. I've demonstrated this by showing leadership and contributing exceptional volunteer service to numerous organizations.
- I have participated in extra-curricular activities
- I demonstrate financial need and have not received other significant financial recognition or scholarships

Essay(s)

- Describe a meaningful school or community service activity in which you have participated. How did this activity benefit others and how did it benefit you? (500-word limit)
- How would receiving this award be important to you in the pursuit of your goals? (500-word limit)
- In what ways do you feel you have made a positive contribution to LNE? (500-word limit)
- What future educational, occupational, and personal goals do you have? What plans have you made for the next five to ten years? (500-word limit)

Jack Handa Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in 2021 to honor the memory of Jack Handa. Jack was a 1964 graduate of Northeast High School where he was a three-year letterman in football and participated in many extracurricular activities. He was one of those students who was seemingly everybody's friend. Jack pursued a teaching and coaching career and throughout his life displayed a kind and generous spirit that made a positive impact on the many lives he touched. The scholarship is to be used for tuition, fees, books, room, and board at any two-or four-year post- secondary education institution.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need
- I plan to attend an accredited two or four-year post-secondary institution
- All things being equal, secondary preference to students planning to major in education

Joe Meehan Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
At least one scholarship awarded

Description

Joe was born in 1925 in north Lincoln's University Place where he attended Huntington Elementary, Jackson High School and Northeast High School while also working as a pin setter at Lincoln Bowling Alley making $3.00 a week. In 1943, he was drafted into the Army and served until 1946. He later worked at Lincoln's Cushman plant, sold cars and had several other occupations, including working at the Post Office for 20 years. Throughout that time, he bought properties. In 1978 he started the WWII Library and Museum. He did more than 250 WWII programs for more than 2 million people in more than 250 newspapers, 30 TV appearances and over 50 states and 52 foreign countries. Joe spent a lifetime gathering and collecting, and saving. His estate was worth nearly $1 million at his death. He once went to 84 garages sales in one day collecting military memorabilia and eventually traveled the world to amass his collection. In 2003, he and his longtime companion Rose McCown opened a WWII museum along Interstate 80 in Greenwood, NE, sharing his collection with visitors each day and living in a nearby motor home at night. That museum closed in 2012.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I have a sense of service to others and country
- I demonstrate financial need
- I have work experience
- I have some affiliation with the Masons through involvement with such organizations as Demolay, Rainbow Girls, or Job's Daughter

Essay(s)

Respond to each essay question in 300 words or fewer

- Joe spent a life paying it forward for others. How will you pay it forward when you have the opportunity to do so? What areas are you passionate about?

Kerry R. Clark Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The intent of this scholarship is to encourage men and women to enter into Nursing. This memorial scholarship was established by the family of Kerry R. Clark. Kerry was a 1982 graduate of Lincoln Northeast High School. During his high school years, he actively sought positions and activities to assist people and animals in need. After graduation, he received an associate degree and became a certified paramedic. At the time of his death in 1988, he was a nursing student at UNMC. The family wishes to honor his memory by providing a scholarship to those seeking careers in Nursing.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior or graduate (first consideration to those attending or graduated from LNE)
- I plan or am currently enrolled in an accredited nursing program (first consideration will be male applicants)
- I rank in the top 1/3 of my class
- I emulate qualities possessed by Kerry Clark such as having potential, recognition of the benefits of education, and being goal-directed
- I demonstrate determination to complete college, in a nursing program

Magnolia Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in 2018 to help students who need a boost to go to college. John Beck appreciates the value of education and wants to help provide the opportunity of an education. It was a foregone conclusion that John himself would go to college. “Having an education sets you up for better accidents,” Beck said, citing a line from “The Sirens of Titan” by Kurt Vonnegut Jr.: “I was a victim of a series of accidents, as are we all.”

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln North Star, Northeast, or Yankee Hill Education Center senior
- I have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.5
- I have overcome great odds to graduate and this scholarship will make a significant difference
- I plan to attend a four-year post-secondary educational institution

Essay(s)

- Write an essay on this year’s topic of: Becoming. Essays may be fiction, non-fiction, autobiographical, poetic; whatever you feel is the best way to express your thoughts. The topic is intentionally open to interpretation. While writing style, grammar and spelling will inevitably be considered, applicants’ ideas will be of primary interest to the selection committee. (500-word limit)
- How will this scholarship help you reach your educational goals? (100-word limit)

Mike Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,200
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Mike Peterson who was a member of the Lincoln Northeast High School class of 1987 and lettered in football, basketball and baseball. After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan, he taught and coached in Lincoln Public Schools and was a positive role model for students and players. He coached football and baseball for LPS until his unexpected death in 1996. This scholarship was established by Mike's family and friends to recognize other Lincoln Northeast athletes who exemplify Mike's spirit - strong work ethic - positive attitude - enthusiasm and dedication to the sports he loved.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I am a member of the LNE football, basketball or baseball team (if injured as a junior, or other circumstances have occurred, the student would not have to play as a senior)
- I demonstrate a positive attitude on and off the field
- I possess a strong work ethic
- I am competitive, dedicated and determined
- Two letters of recommendation are required

Neal Simley “Giving Spirit” Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Neal Simley was the father of two Lincoln Northeast High (LNE) graduates and an avid supporter of LNE activities. In retirement, Neal chose to spend his time volunteering for the Industrial Technology department at LNE. For five consecutive years, Neal served as a volunteer assistant to instructor, Bob Freese, with the homebuilding class. As part of the class, students would build a home for an eligible family through the Lincoln Housing Authority. Each day of the school year, in all types of weather, Neal would faithfully arrive at the construction site ready and willing to teach students important skills of the construction trade. He also spent many personal hours outside of class working on final details to ensure the house was ready for the deserving family to move in on time. With his own professional experience in construction, coupled with his mastery of tools and passion for teaching others, especially students, he found great joy and sense of purpose in his volunteer role. Students loved Neal and he equally loved the students. Neal passed away unexpectedly on April 28, 2021, at the age of 67. He will best be remembered by students for his wit, “tricks of the trade” storytelling, advice, endless construction knowledge and giving spirit. Neal would do anything to help another person. He was giving of his time, expertise and skills, and much of the time, for no financial gain in return. He valued his formal post-secondary education and professional degrees, but he found just as much value in his trade work. To honor Neal and his memory, his family wishes to help a student at Lincoln Northeast High pursue a career in a trade and who also exemplifies the “giving spirit” of Neal.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I plan to learn a trade in an accredited program that leads to an associate’s or bachelor’s degree
- I demonstrate financial need

Essay(s)

- What inspires you to pursue a career in the trades? (500-word limit)

Reeder-Mueller Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,200
One scholarship awarded

Description

In establishing this scholarship, Senator Armstrong indicated that he had three goals in mind: (1) to honor and recognize Elizabeth Reeder and A.J. (Jack) Mueller, former instructors at Northeast High School, (2) to be an encouragement to other teachers by letting them know that decades later students recall and deeply appreciate these two teachers and, (3) to give financial assistance each year to at least one outstanding student from Northeast High School. Senator Armstrong further stated that when he was a student at Northeast, he had no idea how influential the teaching of Miss Reeder and Mr. Mueller would be in his later life. This scholarship is a way for Senator Armstrong (and other contributors) to say thank you decades after the fact.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I have been actively involved in the areas of speech and/or debate
- I will be attending a four-year college/university

Sarah Skean Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Sarah Skean, a graduate of Lincoln High School and teacher at Lincoln Northeast High School.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln High or Northeast High senior or graduate
- I will major in Secondary English Education
- I will attend, or am currently attending, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Scott Hansen “Hang 10” Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Family members created the Scott D. Hansen “Hang 10” Memorial Scholarship in 2019 to honor Scott’s memory. A 1993 graduate of Northeast High School, Scott was a scrawny kid, so for his physical appearance he was teased. Instead of the teasing making him bitter and cruel, it made him more sympathetic and empathetic to others. Scott’s academic success really fulfilled a need he had for his self-esteem. Tutoring others also gave him fulfillment and went hand in hand with the empathy he felt toward others who maybe didn’t feel confident in their own academics. Hard work was key. Scott was diagnosed with anxiety and chose to handle it very well through proper nutrition, sleep, medical care, and exercise versus taking a destructive path. He was very brave and open to discussing his mental health in hopes to help others and to destigmatize mental illness. He truly overcame physical, social, and mental obstacles to succeed. Scott was the life of the party. He loved nothing more than getting the room rolling with his infamous stories through facial expressions, voices, and hand gestures. Scott loved his family and his friends immensely and was a selfless giver. He would do anything for anybody and lived every day to provide the best life for his wife and children. This scholarship will recognize similar values in students today. His life was tragically cut short in a car accident in 2018. Through this scholarship, Scott’s legacy will live on. The name of the scholarship comes from the symbol he would hold up in photos.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I rank in the top 33% of my class
- I have overcome mental health and social health obstacles (see essay question)
- I demonstrate financial need
- I plan to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- All things being equal, secondary preference is given to students attending a different four-year public college or community college

Essay(s)

- Describe what mental and/or social health obstacle(s) you overcame to succeed in high school. (500-word limit)

Steven Westover Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in memory of Steven Westover by his family and friends. Steve was a 1970 graduate of Lincoln Northeast High School and was a practicing attorney in Omaha at the time of his death in May 1993.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I rank in the top 50% of my class
- I demonstrate financial need
- I have been actively involved in school extra-curricular activities
- I have been accepted for enrollment in an accredited two or four-year public or private college or university, trade school or community college

Shannon L. Drake Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in memory of Shannon Drake. Shannon was a 2007 graduate of Lincoln Northeast High (LNE) School. Her love for music and athletics covered a wide variety of areas from actually participating to listening or watching as a spectator. While at LNE, she participated in marching band and vocal music groups including Sophomore Select and Voices in Harmony and volleyball and soccer. At the time of her death in 2011 from cancer, Shannon was studying to be a registered nurse through Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences. Shannon was someone whose friendship you valued as she was loyal and helpful and loving and happy and all around good-natured. Her faith and values guided her in life as she set priorities and goals and worked hard to accomplish them. Her courage and positive outlook on life were strong attributes she carried with her always.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I have participated in at least two years of music (either vocal and/or instrumental)
- I have been a member of an athletic team for at least two years

Velma V. Snook Memorial Music Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by Velma V. Snook to recognize a valued student who wishes to excel in music and to provide financial assistance to further their education in music. Velma was a devoted music teacher at Lincoln Northeast High School and was very active in the music community in Lincoln.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I am planning a career in music - either teaching or performing arts
- I demonstrate financial need
- I plan to pursue a post-secondary education at an accredited four-year institution (public or private)

Willie Craft Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in memory of Willie Craft, a member of the Northeast class of 1997 who lettered in football, baseball and basketball. Willie also participated in vocal music groups including Voices in Harmony, Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. He was a well-rounded individual who was able to set priorities and work hard to accomplish his goals. Willie was attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln when he died on October 24, 2001. The Music Boosters and the Athletic Boosters established this scholarship to recognize other Lincoln Northeast students who exemplify Willie's spirit, strong work ethic and ability to get along with others.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast High School senior
- I am a member of one or more varsity teams (if injured as a junior, or other circumstances have occurred, the student would not have had to play as a senior)
- I am a member of one or more of the select vocal music groups
- I demonstrate a positive attitude while involved in sports and in music
- I demonstrate a strong work ethic, and I am competitive, dedicated and determined
- I am accepting of all people and look beyond my needs to see the needs of others

Scholarships for Southeast High School Students

Andrews-Lund Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The scholarship fund was established in 1989 by Ron Pfeifer in memory of Greg Andrews and Christy Lund, all 1964 graduates of Lincoln Southeast High School. Greg and Christy were killed in separate car accidents during the time they attended the University of Nebraska. Andrews was president of his class, active in student council and played on two state championship golf teams. Christy Lund was an officer in Synkra Knights and was involved in pep club and many activities outside of school.

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I am a student who by his or her presence has made Southeast a better place
- I am in the top 50% of my class
- I plan to attend a four-year college or university
- I have not received any other major scholarship awards ($2,500+)

Dave & Jane Firestone Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

The Dave and Jane Firestone Honorary Scholarship was established in 2009 by their children. The purpose of the scholarship is to honor a student who demonstrates leadership qualities and service to others.

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I have a GPA of 3.2 or higher
- I will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or Nebraska Wesleyan University
- I demonstrate leadership qualities and service to others
- I will major in education or engineering

Dr. William R. Weyhrauch Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Dr. William R. Weyhrauch by his family.

Criteria

- I am either a Lincoln High or Southeast High senior
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- I am a community volunteer with a record of community service
- I am involved in extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to, athletics with a special interest in swimming or diving
- I have an interest in the sciences with plans to pursue a post-secondary education studying sciences
- I display traits of a good citizen who is kind and honest, and I exhibit leadership qualities with a love for learning

Jennifer L. Dorsey Howley Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $4,000 ($1,000 renewable for up to four consecutive years)
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2001 by the family of Jennifer L. Dorsey Howley, a 1985 graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School. Jennifer exemplified personal character as well as work-world success. She built resiliency in every twist life threw at her, thus enabling her to believe that no job was too difficult. Her self-determination and caring nature brought her unlimited achievement. Although Jennifer's love and talent for music was not her vocation, it brought a well-roundedness and peace to her life.

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln Southeast High School senior
- I have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher in my senior year
- I plan to attend a two or four-year college or university
- I have been involved in LSE fine arts programs during my high school career (vocal music, band, orchestra, show choir, theatre, speech and debate, and/or visual arts)

Jill Savage Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Laura Obrist and Lori Moore created this scholarship in 2019 in memory of their beloved friend, Jill Savage. Jill was a rare light in this world – a true force of good and kindness whom her loved ones will always remember and cherish. She was not only fiercely intelligent, but also tremendously funny, immensely compassionate, exceptionally generous, eclectically timeless, and unbelievably strong. Jill was a selfless person who was committed to helping others and doing her part to make the world a better place. She wholeheartedly believed in serving one's community rather than just oneself. Jill also had a way of making people feel better about themselves. She inspired those around her to be their best – while maintaining pride in their identities and quirks. Above all else, Jill was an awesome friend who had a gift for making people feel special, which could be seen in the many childhood friendships she maintained through the course of her life. While her time with us was too short, Jill made a lasting impact on her corner of the universe; and her memory will remain forever burned in our hearts.

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need
- I have a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Secondary preference will be given to a student from any high school

Essay(s)

- Please tell us about any personal barriers – financial or otherwise – that you have already experienced and/or anticipate experiencing, in pursuing your academic and/or career goals. (500-word limit)
- Please tell us about one of your greatest passions (it does NOT need to be academic) and how you think you might incorporate that passion into your college experience. (500-word limit)

John Reta Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

In memory of John Reta, his family and friends established this scholarship fund in 2009. John was a teacher and coach at Lincoln Southeast High School and the University of Nebraska from 1955-1989. A former student-athlete wrote: “John Reta was one of the most dedicated of persons, practically the living embodiment of school tradition and school spirit. He was dedicated to teaching health, physiology, and biology, but most of all, to teaching people. His dedication, devotion, inspiration, and sense of humor contributed to an excellent swimming tradition at Lincoln Southeast. He believed hard work, ‘Singleness of purpose’ and ‘Pursuit of excellence’ were factors that led to success. He was a firm advocate of tough competitiveness and playing by the rules.”

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I am a member of the Southeast swim team
- I have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout my high school career
- I demonstrate financial need
- I plan to attend a two or four-year college or university

Leonard J. Nickerson Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,200
One scholarship awarded

Description

The Leonard J. Nickerson Memorial Scholarship was established in 2023 in honor of Leonard Nickerson, a veteran mathematics teacher at Lincoln Southeast High School. Leonard was well liked, respected, and admired by the hundreds of students he worked with over his years of teaching. After graduating high school, Leonard earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, a Master of Arts degree with a major in Mathematics from Boston College, and attended Kansas State University to enhance his teaching skills. Leonard believed every student should have the opportunity to pursue higher education.

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I plan to major in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) field, or education in STEM
- All being equal, second preference to:
- Students graduating from any LPS high school
- Students planning to major in education (in any field of study)
- Students who show financial need

LSE Class of 1981 Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One or more scholarships awarded

Description

The LSE Class of 1981 Scholarship was established in 2022 by the Lincoln Southeast High School Class of 1981. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide an award to a graduating senior of Lincoln Southeast High School.

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I demonstrate financial need
- All being equal, second preference to:
- I have overcome significant obstacles while attending LPS schools
- I am significantly involved in school activities and community service
- I have a GPA of 2.5 and higher

Ralph “Bud” Cuca Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Wally and JoAnn McNaught established this scholarship in 2009 to recognize outstanding team managers and student trainers at Lincoln Southeast High School. Wally was a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Southeast High School for 27 years. Wall worked with many outstanding team managers during his tenure at Southeast, including Ralph “Bud” Cuca in the 1970s. Wally said team managers, “took care of everything off the floor, so that the coaches could focus on what was happening on the floor. They are an important part of any team.”

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School graduating senior
- I am currently a team manager or student trainer at LSE
- I plan to attend an accredited college or university
- I embody the characteristics of Bud Cuca - hard work, enthusiasm, industriousness, positive, and optimistic outlook and an outgoing personality

Stephen and Marcella Nelsen LSE & LHS Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

Established by Son Q. Tran, M.D. (LSE ’93) in 2019, this scholarship honors Stephen and Marcella Nelsen who set remarkable examples of love, dedication, and support for their students. Steve was one of the inspirational teachers who provided encouragement and support as Son pursued his career in science/medicine.

Criteria

- For students graduating from Southeast High School, Lincoln High or the LPS Science Focus Program.
- For any student choosing to major in Education
    - Primary consideration goes to students focusing their education majors toward Science, Foreign Languages, or English Language Learners.
- Preference to students from low-income families or who have overcome adversity to excel academically.
- It is not necessary for the recipient to be at the top of his or her class academically; rather, the donor prefers recipients to demonstrate promise and growth and be fully committed to their education.
- Successful applicants will display traits of a good citizen who is kind, honest, and respectful, with a love for learning other cultures; and exhibits leadership qualities.
- Students may attend any accredited college or university, including community colleges.
- Please submit at least two letters of recommendation that include statements about your promise and growth as a high school student.
- In the event no applicants qualify for this scholarship, the criteria can be broadened to include any LPS graduate.

Thomas Christiansen Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2012 in memory of Thomas Christiansen. Thomas was an art and photography teacher at Lincoln Southeast High School. He referred to this as his dream job.

Criteria

- I am a Southeast High School senior
- I plan to pursue studies in the arts or visual arts
- I will continue my education at a two or four-year accredited college or university

Scholarships for Southwest High School Students

David Munro Spirit of a Silverhawk Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: $5,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship has been established by family and friends of David Munro to assist a graduating senior who has excelled and been active in high school while persevering through a serious chronic disease(s)/condition(s) and plans to continue their education at an accredited four-year college or university. David Munro graduated from Lincoln Southwest High School in 2012. He excelled academically, graduating in the top 15% of his class. David always sought to be an involved student in the high school he loved. He was a student ambassador, a member of National Honor Society, active in student council, varsity vocal music and the athletic program, serving as student manager for his beloved boys basketball team all four years. No one was a prouder Silverhawk! David was also blessed and especially grateful for the many meaningful relationships he forged with so many faculty and staff members at LSW that enriched his experience. David went on to graduate from Nebraska Wesleyan University. David died in 2018 needing a heart transplant that did not come his way. From the moment of David's birth, he waged a daily battle with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, restrictive and obstructive lung disease, and other related health conditions as the years progressed. David underwent five major heart surgeries (the last during his senior year of high school) and endured countless procedures, interventions, hospitalizations and daily treatments to make life possible. His challenges were significant, but his resilience and perseverance in forging a path forward against unthinkable odds were exceptional. David often said, "You do what you have to do." Indeed, he did; and how he did it was remarkable. He lived his life with grace and joy, never a victim, never bitter. David is remembered for his humor, compassion, intelligence, kindness, positive attitude, contagious smile, and his capacity to rejoice in the good fortune of others. This scholarship seeks to honor David by recognizing and providing financial assistance to other students whose paths are challenging due to a serious chronic disease or condition.

Criteria

- I have been challenged by serious disease(s)/condition(s) diagnosed and treated by a physician
- I am a Lincoln Public Schools senior
- I plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited four-year college or university for the entire upcoming academic year
- I have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Preference is given to graduating seniors at Lincoln Southwest who meet the above criteria

Essay(s)

- Please write a personal impact statement on how living with your disease(s)/condition(s) has impacted your life. (500-word limit)

Doug Kaltenberger “Coach K” Memorial Baseball Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
Two scholarships awarded: one student from LNE and one student from LSW

Description

The scholarship was established in 2016 by Susan Kaltenberger and her children, Jessica, Megan and David, in memory of their husband and father, Doug. Doug spent a 31-year career in Lincoln Public Schools teaching health education and coaching. He spent 17 years at Northeast High School as a teacher, basketball coach and baseball coach. He finished his career at Southwest High School where he taught and built the foundation for the baseball program. Doug always told his players to use baseball to get an education, not the other way around. He often said, ‘It’s a beautiful day folks! Holy cow, life is good!” He guided hundreds of students through life, school, and sports.

Criteria

- I am a Northeast or Southwest High School senior
- I have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- I am a current varsity baseball player
- Preference is given to those pursuing baseball in college
- I am enthusiastic, I lead by example, on and off the field, I work hard and hustle, I have a great work ethic, in the classroom and on the field, and I have a positive attitude
- I am a person of outstanding character (trustworthy, role model for teammates, honest, sacrifices for the team, takes responsibility for his actions, sense of humor)
- I pick up my teammates, am a good communicator, am a motivator, and am respected by my teammates

LSW Coach Mark Watt Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established in 2024 by Lis Brenden, Ann Watt and the Watt Family in honor of Coach Mark Watt. Coach Watt's 26-year career in Lincoln Public Schools included teaching physical education and coaching. He spent 20 years at Southwest High School – starting there when the school opened – as a teacher, baseball coach and softball coach. At Southwest he taught and built the foundation for the softball program leading them to four State Championships, guiding his teams with kindness, integrity, and competitiveness. Mark's greatest achievement is to have made a positive difference in the lives of many players and coaches over the past two decades. He also worked very hard in the off-season to help players improve their skills, especially hitting. Mark's strength is an ability to focus on qualities that he felt are important to developing capable young women. He helps players to:

- See the big picture (playing and winning with character)
- Work well together (unity and team spirit)
- Focus on their strengths (working toward team and personal goals and using a positive growth mindset). Mark was named the 21-22 Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High school Associations. In his 26-year career he won 579 games, led teams to four Class A state championships, and was a volunteer coach for the Husker softball team.

Criteria

- I am a Southwest High School senior
- I have played varsity softball at Southwest during high school
- Priority may be given to students demonstrating financial need

Scholarships for Yankee Hill Education Center Students

Magnolia Scholarship

Award Amount: $2,500
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was created in 2018 to help students who need a boost to go to college. John Beck appreciates the value of education and wants to help provide the opportunity of an education. It was a foregone conclusion that John himself would go to college. “Having an education sets you up for better accidents,” Beck said, citing a line from “The Sirens of Titan” by Kurt Vonnegut Jr.: “I was a victim of a series of accidents, as are we all.”

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln North Star, Northeast, or Yankee Hill Education Center senior
- I have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.5
- I have overcome great odds to graduate and this scholarship will make a significant difference
- I plan to attend a four-year post-secondary educational institution

Essay(s)

- Write an essay on this year’s topic of: Becoming. Essays may be fiction, non-fiction, autobiographical, poetic; whatever you feel is the best way to express your thoughts. The topic is intentionally open to interpretation. While writing style, grammar and spelling will inevitably be considered, applicants’ ideas will be of primary interest to the selection committee. (500-word limit)
- How will this scholarship help you reach your educational goals? (100-word limit)

Scholarships for Any Lincoln or Lancaster County High School Students

Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
At least one scholarship awarded

Description

These scholarships were established by the Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel to benefit graduates of all Lancaster County high schools who will pursue a teaching career and enroll in an accredited educational institution. The LARSP scholarship committee determines the number and dollar amount of the scholarships each year based upon the quality and quantity of applications.

Criteria

- I am a Lancaster County high school senior
- I am in the top 25% of my senior class
- I plan to enroll in an accredited education institution
- I plan to become a teacher
- Three letters of recommendation are required

Essay(s)

- List any honors or distinctions (briefly describe)
- Have you received any other scholarships? If so, please list them.
- What activities do you hope to pursue in college? (500-word limit)
- Provide a brief statement of why you want to be a teacher. (500-word limit)

Lincoln Center Kiwanis Community Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000
At least one scholarship awarded

Description

The Kiwanis Club of Lincoln, Nebraska - Lincoln Center (the "Club") will offer at least one $1,000 scholarship(s) to graduates of any Lincoln high school, public, private and parochial. The primary selection criteria will be the applicant's record of community service, in keeping with Kiwanis' emphasis on volunteer service to improve the lives of children as well as the Defining Statement of Kiwanis: "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time" and the Kiwanis Motto, "Serving the children of the world."

Criteria

- I am a Lincoln, Nebraska, high school senior (public, private, or parochial school)
- I plan to attend an accredited institution of post-secondary education
- I have at least 100 hours of community service (defined as voluntary activity helping others) over the past 18 months. Service performed in fulfillment of graduation requirements may be included
- Application must include two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher or counselor and one from an individual associated with community service organizations attesting to the applicant's involvement in community service efforts)
- All things being equal, secondary preference is given to a member of their high school's Key Club and/or Builder's Club

Essay(s)

Please react to ONE of the following essay questions: (500-word limit)

- The defining statement of Kiwanis International is: "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child in a community at a time." How can one person improve the world?
- The motto of Kiwanis International is: "Serving the children of the world." What have you done and what can you do to improve the lives of children?

Montoya James Laravie (Mato Was'aka "Strong Bear") Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000 (renewable for up to four consecutive years)
One scholarship awarded

Description

This scholarship was established by Ms. Brenda Hoffman and Mr. Michael H. Epstein in honor of Montoya James Laravie. Montoya grew up in Lincoln, was a graduate of Lincoln High School, a member of the Lincoln High football team, and was enrolled in the TeamMates program. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 2015, Montoya attended Haskell Indian Nations University where he earned his Associate Degree in 2017, made the Dean's list and was one year away from earning his bachelor's degree. He loved the outdoors and spent many late nights fishing and camping with family and friends. He could always make people laugh and had a smile for all occasions. Montoya embraced his Native Heritage, was a drummer and singer with "Red Society" at Haskell, was a mentor with The Intergenerational Connection Project, and planned to return to Lincoln to serve as a role model for Native students.

Criteria

- I am a senior at a Lincoln, Nebraska, high school planning to attend a two or four-year post-secondary educational institution
  - First preference goes to members of the Ponca or Lakota tribes graduating from Lincoln High School.
  - Second preference goes to members of any Native American tribe graduating from Lincoln High School.
  - Third preference goes to members of the Ponca or Lakota tribes graduating from any LPS high school.
  - Fourth preference goes to members of any Native American tribe graduating from any LPS high school.
  - Must demonstrate financial need
- Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, fees, books, room and board, or other expenses to maintain student's eligibility in college.

Application

You can apply to this scholarship using the general application or through the alternate application found at this link: https://forms.gle/og7SJk9xoehuVfuy7