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IMPORTANT GRANT DEADLINES



August 1
Building for Tomorrow grant applications are due **August 1**.



September 30
Ted Baldwin Donor Advised Fund grant applications open August 1 and are due **September 30**.



October 15
Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment grant applications are due **October 15**. (Please allow time to complete the pre-application due October 1.)

Please review the grant guidelines to make sure your nonprofit organization and project qualifies to be considered for a grant. Visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/grants to view guidelines, apply and find more information.

www.kearneyfoundation.org | (308) 237-3114

2024-2025
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“connecting people who care with causes that matter”

Room to Grow
and Expand our Impact

The Kearney Area Community Foundation Takes a Big Step Toward the Future!

It may be hard to believe, but 2025 will mark 30 years since the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) was founded! The Foundation has been very fortunate to experience the support of Kearney and the surrounding area. That support has helped us grow in our mission to connect people who care with causes that matter.

Our growth has been so great, that we are able to take advantage of an amazing opportunity. This fall, KACF will be moving into a new building. The building, located at **2908 W 39th Street**, will provide us with more space to attain our goals and implement our strategic plan.



The biggest benefit of the new location will be the ability to host meetings, seminars and celebrations in The Community Collaboration Space. This will be located in the center of the building and will be equipped with technology that will make it a prime area for people to meet. In addition to being an option for KACF to hold events and meetings, it will be used to support local nonprofit organizations.

KACF staff will be able to utilize the space to hold trainings and seminars for area nonprofits and also advise those interested in furthering their charitable impact. The trainings will range in topics from ways to boost fundraising, attracting donors and having a successful campaign during Give Where You Live, our 24-hour giving day. The Community Collaboration Space will be a great resource for those looking to make a difference in our area.

“This is a dream come true and will truly be a pivotal point in our organization’s growth and our expanded outreach in the Kearney area – transforming our communities,” says KACF President/CEO Judi Sickler.

The new building will also have room for KACF to grow in the future. At **4,581 square feet**, the building gives current staff room to do more hands-on projects and provides the option to add more offices if KACF decides to expand its services.

We are extremely fortunate to live in such a charitable community. Thank you so much for your continued support as we work to serve our community and help improve the way of life in the Kearney area! If you would like to donate to the KACF Building Fund, please contact us.

Investing in Our Students

Local Students Get a Boost Toward Higher Education

Their Pursuit of Higher Education

Scholarships are the building blocks for future generations, providing the financial assistance for local students to fulfill their dreams of higher education.

Omar Corona received the **Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship** after hearing about the scholarship from his school counselor. He will be attending Central Community College-Hastings and plans to get an associate's degree in Diesel Technology and then a master's degree in Diesel Power Generation. He's worked with Nebraska Generation Service throughout high school and plans to continue to work with them after finishing college. He would like to eventually own his own mechanic shop. "I believe it takes only one person to change your whole family's future," Corona says. "With the help of the Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship it motivates me to keep working harder knowing that I have their support and show that everything is possible in life with hard work."



Omar Corona
Gibbon
High School

Erica Lockhorn received the **Asher Family Scholarship**. She says she decided to apply after a change in income with her family. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney and major in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance. After getting her degree, she plans to have a sustainable job that she enjoys or possibly start her own business. "The Asher Family Scholarship was a blessing that helped me reduce the stress of the financial aspect of attending college," says Lockhorn. "I am extremely thankful there are families and organizations like this that help high school students like me to be able to pursue higher education with a much smaller financial burden."



Erica Lockhorn
Ravenna
High School

Claire Rogers received the **Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship**. She applied for the scholarship after being involved in Youth Leadership while in high school. She will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will be studying Pre-Pharmacy. After finishing college, she hopes to move back to Kearney to be able to give back to the community that helped shape her to be the person she is today. "The Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship is a huge blessing to me and my family," Rogers says. "I am so thankful to be able to put this scholarship money towards my college education. It is truly a life changing opportunity to have received this, and it goes to show how Kearney always pushes their young leaders to be the best they can be by supporting them in any way possible."



Claire Rogers
Kearney Catholic
High School

Asher Saulsbury received the **Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee Scholarship**. He plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will be majoring in Agronomy. After college, he says he wants to pursue a career in agriculture in an area in which he can serve others. "Receiving this scholarship is another helpful financial tool in helping me achieve my dream of working in an agricultural related job upon graduation from college," says Saulsbury. "I have a very deep love of agriculture and farming has always been in my blood as I have grown up helping on my family's farm. Thank you to the scholarship committee for selecting me as the recipient of this scholarship. I am honored to use the funds from this scholarship as I begin my educational career."



Asher Saulsbury
Kearney
High School

Enriching Local Nonprofits

through project and program support

Spring Grantees

Arthur E. Klinkacek left a large impact on the community in the form of a \$2 million gift to the Kearney Area Community Foundation from his estate. In honor of his wishes to help the community, the Foundation created the Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment Fund, for community preservation and enrichment purposes. Since its inception, more than \$600,000 has been granted to local causes.



This spring, six nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$46,500 in grants.

- **Choice Family Healthcare** received \$4,000 for their You Matter Project, which will focus on updating the floors and painting the walls in their clinic to make it more welcoming.
- **Forward Kearney Building Fund** was awarded \$12,000 to help with various needs in their Welcome Center.
- **Kearney Area Arts Council** received \$7,500 for the Kearney Jazz Education Project, which supports Jazz at the World, to establish the Central Nebraska Youth Jazz Ensemble (CNYJE) and bring in a guest artist to play a concert with the CNYJE for the community.
- **Kearney Catholic High School Foundation** was awarded \$10,000 to support their new public outdoor activities facility.
- **Kearney Family YMCA** received \$8,000 to help expand and make improvements to their Family Fun Center.
- **Little Eagles Learning Center** in Overton was awarded \$5,000 to help build a facility to expand their childcare services.

Would you like to find out more about these recipients and past recipients? Scan the QR code to see videos that take a closer look at each project! The next grant deadline is October 15.



A Different Path

A New Educational Landscape

College Has Changed for Today's Youth

In my time at Central Community College, I have met with many students and their support people as they make the decision to better their lives through education. Whether it is pursuing a certificate in commercial wiring or entrepreneurship, getting a full degree in criminal justice, or taking general education classes that they will transfer to a four-year college, there is one thing that's constant: How will I pay for this?



Ashley Weets
KACF Board Member,
Associate Dean of
Students at Central
Community College

Community colleges nationwide are seeing continued enrollment increases post-pandemic. More and more students are choosing a two-year college path and finding career success, as those colleges with a high vocational program focus are seeing the largest increase. Central Community College has seen this growth as well, and the Kearney Area Community Foundation has seen several of our scholarship recipients taking those generous donations to a community college. While our cost is much lower than a public or private 4-year college, there is still a cost to attend for our students and they rely on scholarship opportunities. In addition, according to the Community College Research Center, 65% of all students at two-year colleges have an income level below \$50,000 per year. So, the need is great.



All college students across the board face financial burdens, so the support of scholarships is always welcome. Scholarships are an investment in that specific student's future – giving them greater access to options in higher education. It is our job once the students are here to ensure they are given the best education and opportunities to be employed and successful. If a scholarship recipient chooses to use that gift at Central Community College, know that 90% of our graduates employed full-time stay within our 25-county service area. They are our neighbors and future community leaders, and an investment in that is always worthwhile. If you're interested in setting up a scholarship with the Kearney Area Community Foundation to help area students, call (308) 237-3114.



Congratulations!

2024

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship awards three scholarships to Buffalo County students with financial need.

Recipients: Omar Corona, Ruben Hernandez Vazques and Carter Jasnoch

Asher Family Scholarship awards three scholarships to seniors of Ravenna High School.

Recipients: Erica Lockhorn, Jady Taylor and Morgan Treffer

Aubree Joy Hubbard Memorial Scholarship awards one scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School.

Recipient: Ayva Sullivan

Bernadine and Douglas Howarth Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School.

Recipient: Alyssa Moes

Betty Zwiener Rodehorst Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School.

Recipient: Kinley Gifstad

Blanche Thompson Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School who will be a first-year college student.

Recipient: Carter Dormann

Carla J. Middleswart Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Buffalo County student who has served in the military or has a family member who has served.

Recipient: Madisyn Autabee

Carol Cope Alpha Xi Delta Scholarship awards a scholarship to a UNK student who is a member of Alpha Xi Delta National Women's Fraternity.

Recipient: Ashleigh Ritter

C.D. Orr and Emily Orr Scholarship awards a four-year scholarship to a Garden County High School senior.

Recipient: Gavin Hunt

Charles and Jeanette Mumma Scholarship awards three scholarships to seniors active in the Buffalo County 4-H program.

Recipients: Callee Carman, Claire Gangwish and Hannah Herrick

Charles and Verna Lee Falk Scholarship awards two scholarships for seniors of Wilcox-Hildreth High School, with a preference to those pursuing degrees in healthcare or agriculture.

Recipients: Addison Overholser and Georgia Ramsey

City of Oshkosh Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Garden County High School senior.

Recipient: Olivia Beuchamp

C.J. Williams and Lena A. Williams Scholarship awards two scholarships to Garden County High School seniors.

Recipients: Carter Dormann and Gunner Roberson

Colene Pfeiffer Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with preference given to those majoring in education.

Recipient: Lauren Smith

Don Newth Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School who will be a first-year college student.

Recipient: Kyle Rote

Donald Kaup Memorial Knights of Columbus Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior residing in Holt or Rock County.

Recipient: Carson Dannenbring

Dwight and Lois Gangwish Scholarship awards a scholarship to a current or past graduate of Shelton High School.

Recipient: Dru Niemack

Elm Creek Public School Foundation Clara Marshall Scholarship awards five scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

Recipients: Ashley Carlton, Abigail Lange, Alyssa Moes, Hope Pickel and Ayva Sullivan

Elm Creek School Foundation Scholarship awards five scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

Recipients: Ashley Carlton, Abigail Lange, Alyssa Moes, Hope Pickel and Ayva Sullivan

Faye Wendt Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with preference to those who attend UNK, majoring in education.

Recipient: Natalie Rasmussen

Ferol G. Carney and Patricia A. Carney Memorial Scholarship awards a multi-year scholarship to a senior of Garden County.

Recipient: Gavin Hunt

Garden County High School Alumni Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors of Garden County High School.

Recipients: Carter Dormann and Gunner Roberson

Today, the Kearney Area Community Foundation manages **65 scholarships**. We have awarded **99 scholarships** equaling more than **\$187,780** in **2024** to local students enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university. This year, we are working with **64 scholarship recipients**.



96% of recipients used the Kearney Area Community Foundation's online universal scholarship application



95% of scholarships were awarded to students pursuing higher education in Nebraska



28% of scholarships were awarded to those with majors in the medical field



31% of scholarships were awarded to those getting a 2-year degree

Want to apply next year?

Visit www.kearneyfoundation.org/scholarships

The universal application opens February 3, 2025.

Scholarships with paper applications are available all year long.

Holy Cross Lutheran Mitchell Scholarship provides financial assistance to Holy Cross Lutheran church members.

Recipients: Andrew Dahlke, Nolan Dart, William Fiddelke, Fredrick Harbols, Abrial Humphrey, Lauren Kohtz, Dillon Kusek, Sydney Rohwer and Nathan Unger

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee Scholarship awards two scholarships to graduating high school students from a Buffalo or Kearney County high school pursuing a degree in agriculture.

Recipients: Logan Roggasch and Asher Saulsbury

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Bruce Blankenship Leadership in Business Scholarship awards a scholarship to a student pursuing a degree in the field of business.

Recipient: Kennidy Garner

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Friends of Law Enforcement Scholarship awards a scholarship to a student from Buffalo County pursuing a degree in law enforcement or a similar field.

Recipient: Hunter Liss

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Mark Benjamin Building Opportunity Scholarship awards a scholarship to a student in Buffalo or Kearney County pursuing a degree in the construction trades field of study.

Recipient: Keaton Schirmer

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Student Leader Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors from a Buffalo County high school who are enrolled full-time at CCC or UNK.

Recipients: Omar Corona (CCC) and Alyssa Moes (UNK)

Kenneth L. Erickson FFA Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Pleasanton or Ravenna High School senior involved in FFA.

Recipient: Mason Wendt

Kurt Keaschall Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton and Ravenna High School with preference given to those attending a two-year technical school.

Recipients: Tanner Zimmer (Pleasanton) and Jadyn Taylor (Ravenna)

Lance Corporal Kyle Codner Memorial Scholarship awards two scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School with financial need.

Recipients: Addison Burr and Callee Carman

LeRoy and Joyce Hongsermeier Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Ravenna High School senior pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field.

Recipient: Mason Wendt

Lynn Rosenlof Hoelting Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to an outstanding female athlete, student and leader of Kearney High School through a nomination process.

Recipient: Samantha Stava

McKenna's Rae of Hope Character Scholarship is a character-based scholarship where candidates are identified through a nomination process.

Recipients: Nathaniel Barker, Sage Fernau, Adeline Moore and Isabel Raburn

McKenna's Rae of Hope Mental Health Field Scholarship awards two scholarships to a high school senior, college student or graduate in a mental health program.

Recipients: Kinley Gifstad and Denae Nachtigal

Oren and Joyce Vogt Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

Recipient: Keaton Schirmer

Path to Success Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Buffalo County with financial need studying trades.

Recipient: Garrett Wedemeyer

Patricia Trubl Scholarship awards a scholarship to current and past graduates of Shelton High School.

Recipient: Dru Niemack

Pauline Fulton Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a graduate of a Nebraska high school who has been accepted into the nursing program at UNMC - Kearney division.

Recipient: Callie White

Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship awards four scholarships to seniors of Pleasanton High School who have participated in community activities.

Recipients: Copeland Carstens, Jaycee Flood, Kinley Gifstad and Kaden Keaschall

Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship in honor of Bob Bednar awards a scholarship to a Pleasanton High School senior.

Recipient: Lauren Smith

Pleasanton High School Alumni Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with financial need.

Recipient: Natalie Rasmussen

Ravenna Public School Class of 1948 Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School enrolled full-time in a Nebraska college, university or technical school.

Recipient: Hanna Johnson

Ravenna Public School Foundation Scholarship awards two scholarships to current, graduating seniors of Ravenna High School who are enrolled full-time in a Nebraska college or technical school.

Recipients: Erica Lockhorn and Chase Rager

Richard Dunn Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School.

Recipient: Gunner Roberson

Robin and Judy Marshall Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School with financial need.

Recipient: Hope Pickel

Ronald and Jaquelyn Kegley 4-H Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior graduating in Buffalo County and involved in 4-H activities.

Recipient: Alyssa Moes

Roy and Doris Abood Scholarship awards a scholarship to a first-generation college student enrolled at UNK.

Recipient: Brooklyn Mohrman

Shawn Reiber Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a current, graduating senior in Buffalo County.

Recipient: Copeland Carstens

Shelton FFA Boosters Scholarship awards scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School who participated in FFA.

Recipients: Addison Burr, Callee Carman and Luke Gillming

Shelton "Paying it Forward" Scholarship awards a scholarship to a Shelton High School Senior with preference given to those pursuing a degree in STEM subjects.

Recipient: Callee Carman

Ted Headley Ag Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School pursuing a degree in agriculture.

Recipient: Callee Carman

Troy and Kay Bauer Scholarship awards a scholarship to an Amherst High School senior who plans to major in the agricultural or medical field.

Recipient: Chase Korth

Vanity Fare Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Paxton Consolidated Schools.

Recipient: Jacelyn Jorgensen

Vernon and Beverly Reinertson Scholarship awards scholarships to seniors of Ravenna High School pursuing a degree in a 2-year or 4-year program.

Recipients: Madisyn Autobee and Erica Lockhorn

Violet Wadzinski Memorial Scholarship awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

Recipient: Sarah McKeon

Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship awards scholarships for high school seniors who graduated from the Youth Leadership Kearney program and are attending college in Nebraska.

Recipients: Claire Gangwish, Claire Rogers and Samantha Stava

These scholarships, through the Kearney Area Community Foundation, (KACF) are established by generous donors, businesses and organizations, like you, focused on assisting students in their pursuit of higher education.

A scholarship fund, through KACF, connects local donors with local youth to help them achieve their educational goals.

Are you interested in creating a scholarship fund and investing in our community's youth? The Kearney Area Community Foundation is here to help! Establishing a scholarship fund with KACF is an effective way to meet your charitable objectives as a local dreamer.

Scholarship funds may vary in size and complexity, but one thing is in common throughout all funds: the charitable spirit and dedication to the education of local youth. **Call our office at (308) 237-3114.**