



# Congratulations!

# 2026

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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

**Recipients:** Rogelio Hernandez, Reuben Reyes and Zury Rivas

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

**Recipients:** Emma Gentrup, Abby Lewandowski and Lindsey Teichmeier

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

**Recipient:** Ava Hellriegel

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

**Recipient:** Aspen Tool

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

**Recipient:** Karma Peterson

**Bruner Family Scholarship** awards scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School.

**Recipients:** Susanna Cheney, Matthew Goldfish and Emily Wiehn

**Buzz and Thelma Wise Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Kearney High School who is enrolled at CCC.

**Recipient:** Connor Stewart

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

**Recipient:** Lane Brenneman

**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:** Sahara Vasquez

**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:** Kiya Garrelts

**Chad and Dyan Wise Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Kearney High School who is enrolled at UNK.

**Recipient:** Lyza McCracken

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

**Recipients:** Madden Brabec, Alex Meier and Elly Spracklen

**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:** Cheyenne Lieb and Aubree Overholser

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

**Recipient:** Carver Corfield

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

**Recipient:** Claire Ahrens

**Don Newth Memorial Scholarship** awards scholarships to seniors of Garden County High School who will be first-year college students.

**Recipient:** Korryn Beberniss and Karma Peterson

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

**Recipient:** Cameron Kaup

**Dr. AA Jaeke Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School who is enrolled full time with preference to those pursuing a degree in the medical field.

**Recipient:** Erin Gegg

**Dwight and Lois Gangwish Scholarship** awards scholarships to current or past graduates of Shelton High School.

**Recipients:** Jalyn Branson, Erin Gegg, Emily Wiehn and Demarion Williams

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

**Recipients:** Devin Anderson, Emma Graddy, Ava Hellriegel, Madelynn Miller and Aspen Tool

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

**Recipients:** Devin Anderson, Emma Graddy, Ava Hellriegel, Madelynn Miller and Aspen Tool

Today, the Kearney Area Community Foundation manages **67 scholarship funds**. We awarded **99 scholarships** equaling more than **\$204,975** in **2026** to local students enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university. This year, we are working with **62 different scholarship recipients**.



**94% of recipients used** the Kearney Area Community Foundation's online universal scholarship application



**91% of scholarships were** awarded to students pursuing higher education in Nebraska



**36% of scholarships were** awarded to those with majors in the medical field



**24% of scholarships were** awarded to those getting a 2-year degree

**Want to apply next year?**

Visit [www.kenneyfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.kenneyfoundation.org/scholarships)

**scholarships**

The universal application opens February 1, 2027.

**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:** Shane Lucht

**Ferol G. Carney and Patricia A. Carney Memorial Scholarship**

awards a multi-year scholarship to a senior of Garden County.

**Recipient:** Carver Corfield

**Garden County High School Alumni**

**Scholarship** awards scholarships to seniors of Garden County High School.

**Recipients:** Korryn Beberniss and Lane Brenneman

**Hands On Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of any Nebraska high school.

**Recipient:** Rogelio Hernandez

**Harry and Helen Pagels Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a Kearney High School senior that is enrolled in UNK's College of Business.

**Recipient:** Izac Reineke

**Holy Cross Lutheran Mitchell Scholarship** provides financial assistance to Holy Cross Lutheran church students.

**Recipients:** Wyton Fiddelke, Dane McClary, Alexa Jacobsen, Evan Shaffer and Natalee Wright

**Jane S. and Franklin V. Bernhard**

**Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Shelton High School senior going to a two-year school.

**Recipient:** Drake Power

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Ag Committee Scholarship** awards scholarships to graduating high school students from a Buffalo or Kearney County high school pursuing a degree in agriculture.

**Recipients:** Ava Hellriegel and Allison Unger

**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:** Izac Reineke

**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:** Dylan Johnson

**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:** Rogelio Hernandez

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Student Leader Scholarship**

awards scholarships to seniors from a Buffalo County high school who are enrolled full-time at CCC or UNK.

**Recipients:** Eleanor Hird-Pruner (CCC) and Natalie Contreras (UNK)

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

**Recipient:** Cadence Dixon

**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:** Haden Smith (Pleasanton) and Abby Lewandowski (Ravenna)

**Lance Corporal Kyle Codner Memorial**

**Scholarship** awards scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School with financial need.

**Recipients:** Susanna Cheney and Erin Gegg

**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:** Reese Holscher

**McKenna Rae Johnson Memorial**

**Scholarship** is a character-based scholarship where candidates are identified through a nomination process.

**Recipient:** Paige Wolinski

**McKenna's Rae of Hope Foundation**

**Mental Health Field Scholarship** awards scholarships to a high school senior, college student or graduate student in a mental health program.

**Recipients:** Malynn Boyles and Jacqueline Ramirez Estrada

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

**Recipient:** Cooper Todd

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

**Recipient:** Demarion Williams

**Patricia Trubl Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a current or past graduate of Shelton High School.

**Recipient:** Susanna Cheney

**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:** Brooke Bryant

**Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship**

awards scholarships to seniors of Pleasanton High School who have participated in community activities.

**Recipients:** Cadence Dixon, Austin Hollingsworth, Brennan Lindner, Brittney Riley and Brecken Wendt

**Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship in**

**honor of Bob Bednar** awards a scholarship to a Pleasanton High School senior.

**Recipient:** Allison Unger

**Pleasanton High School Alumni Scholarship**

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

**Recipient:** Cade Klein

**Pleasanton Law Enforcement Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Pleasanton High School senior going into law enforcement.

**Recipient:** Haden Smith

**Powell Family Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior from Buffalo County.

**Recipient:** Rogelio Hernandez

**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 tech school.

**Recipient:** Abby Lewandowski

**Ravenna Public School Foundation**

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

**Recipients:** Abby Lewandowski and Lindsey Teichmeier

**Richard Dunn Memorial Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School.

**Recipient:** Lane Brenneman

**Robin and Judy Marshall Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Aspen Tool

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

**Recipient:** Jacqueline Ramirez Estrada

**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:** Macy Willis

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

**Recipient:** Macy Willis

**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:** Adalyn Skrdla

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

**Recipient:** Ella Fote

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

**Recipients:** Abby Lewandowski and Lindsey Teichmeier

**Violet Wadzinski Memorial Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Lindsey Teichmeier

**Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship**

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

**Recipients:** Ocean Lin, Kaden Slaymaker and Elly Spracklen