Adelaide Glaser Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE: Endowed



Scholarship Category: General

ESTABLISHED DATE: December 2, 1991

CRITERIA:

- New Mexico resident
- 3.0 GPA or higher
- Undergraduate or graduate degree-seeking full-time student
- Preference given to students with a minimum of 12 credit hours a semester

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:

Dr. Adelaide Louise Glaser was born on January 12, 1905, in Jefferson County, Kansas, the daughter of Charles and Gertrude (Baker) Glaser, and grew up on a farm in northeastern Kansas between Topeka and Kansas City. She earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and home economics from McPherson College in 1927 and a master's degree in foods and nutrition from Kansas State University in 1930. In 1934, she was working toward her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, lacking only her dissertation and a language course, when she was called to Silver City to teach at New Mexico State Teachers College. She chose to come to Silver City, and she never left.

Adelaide arrived as professor of home economics and dietitian for the college cafeteria, which at the time fed about twenty-five people with a "staff" of one cook. Her department consisted of a wood stove, two sinks, and a few hot plates in a renovated basement classroom crammed with steam pipes. Over the next 36 years as head of the Home Economics Department, she built it into a modern, well-equipped program and grew enrollment from about ten students to more than one hundred. She taught foods, nutrition, and child development, supervised the university nursery school, taught at the university high school, started WNMU's preschool in 1950, and served as faculty sponsor of the Home Economics Club.

Adelaide's expertise reached far beyond campus. When the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C., was launching Head Start for underprivileged preschool children, it called on her for help. As a national consultant, she traveled widely to inaugurate Head Start programs, and she coordinated the local program at the university's Laboratory School. She also held offices in the New Mexico and American Home Economics Associations and served on state and regional committees on nutrition, exceptional children, and vocational-technical education. The Silver City–Grant County Chamber of Commerce named her Citizen of the Year, and in October 1981 the university honored her by naming the new home economics building Glaser Hall.

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After retiring from WNMU in 1970, Adelaide began a “second career” as a volunteer with the Hillcrest Hospital Auxiliary, later Gila Regional Medical Center. Working in Medical Records, she became head of the auxiliary volunteers there and was the first person to learn the department’s microfilm machine. Over more than 26 years she contributed upwards of 20,000 hours of service, earning the American Hospital Association’s Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence in 1988 and an outstanding volunteer award from the New Mexico Hospital Association in 1990. She also served on the auxiliary’s scholarship committee and was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Silver City from 1934 on.

A lifelong believer in students, Adelaide presented scholarships to home economics students at both McPherson College and WNMU for many years. In 1991, she established this endowed scholarship through the WNMU Foundation for New Mexico residents attending Western, recognizing academic achievement, financial need, strong personality traits, and good leadership qualities. Dr. Glaser passed away in Silver City on June 14, 2004, at the age of 99. Her scholarship continues to help WNMU students, carrying on the legacy of an educator who gave 36 years to the university and seven decades to the community she loved.

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