Alumni General Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE: Endowed

ESTABLISHED DATE: 1986

CRITERIA:

- 2.5 GPA or higher
- Undergraduate or graduate full-time student
- Must be a child of a WNMU alumnus
- Committee reviews essays, academic records, and financial resources

Scholarship Category: Alumni

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:

The Alumni General Scholarship is sponsored by the graduates of Western New Mexico University, working through the WNMU Alumni Association and the WNMU Foundation. Founded in 1893, Western has produced generations of teachers, nurses, scientists, business leaders, and public servants who stayed connected to the university long after graduation.

In 1986, as the university approached its 100th anniversary, the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Program was created. Graduates were invited to give $100 a year through the centennial year of 1993, building a permanent endowment for future students. Those who participated received a small gift each year and had their name, hometown, and year of graduation placed on the Alumni Honorary Founder Board, along with "the sense of pride gathered from knowing that you helped do something no other group has done."

The intent of the program was clear from the start. Its founders believed it "should be the backbone of the University Scholarship Program" and asked, "Who better than alumni know the benefits that are to be realized from the small school approach to education. You can help another good student become one of the many successful graduates of Western New Mexico University."

From the beginning, the scholarship has been rooted in WNMU and Silver City. It is administered by the Alumni Association's scholarship committee, and it is reserved for the children and descendants of Western graduates, so that each award connects one generation of Mustangs to the next. In 1998, for example, the scholarship went to a student whose mother and father were both WNMU graduates.

Today the Alumni General Scholarship supports full-time undergraduate and graduate students with a 2.5 GPA or higher who are the children of WNMU alumni. Applicants submit an essay about their personal goals and qualifications, and the Alumni Scholarship Committee reviews their essays, academic records, and financial resources to select each recipient. Funded by fellow graduates, the scholarship is a reminder that every recipient is part of a larger Mustang family.

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