

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Phil and Adeline Seljevold Scholarship

Phil Seljevold was a 1945 Moorhead High graduate. At Moorhead he participated in band, choir, basketball, football and track. Phil graduated from Concordia College in 1950 and earned a master's degree from MSUM. In 1958, he began working for the Moorhead School District as a physical education supervisor. In 1968 he became the district's athletic director until his retirement in 1989. Phil thoroughly enjoyed his A.D. position as he understood the value of extra curricular activities in one's education. In his retirement, Phil was still committed to community service. He chaired the Moorhead High Stadium Committee. In 1996 he was inducted into the MN Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association Hall of Fame and in 2008 was inducted into the Moorhead High School Hall of Honor.

Adeline too saw the value of extra curricular activities and was an avid Spud supporter. Phil and Adelines' four children and nine of their grandchildren graduated from Moorhead High.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Vincent Pulicicchio Memorial Scholarship

Vincent Pulicicchio, formerly of Moorhead, MN, was born in International Falls, MN, April 10, 1927. Vincent graduated from International Falls High School while serving in the United States Navy. Following his separation from the Navy, he attended the Vermilyea Academy of Music in Los Angeles. There he performed with the Glendale Symphony Orchestra.

He and his wife moved to Moorhead in 1949. He attended Moorhead State University, and received a Bachelor of Science Degree. Mr Pulicicchio then began a thirty year teaching career in the Orchestras in the Moorhead School District. In 1965 he developed the Apollo Strings Group, which traveled across the United States, Canada, Europe, and behind the Iron Curtain. This group is in existence still today. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Pulicicchio's son Kurt passed away in 2019, and wife June passed away in 2020. Mr. Pulicicchio's daughter, Deirdre "DD" (and Scott) Burnside lives in Shakopee, MN with her family.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Barbara Arneson Bielfeldt Memorial Scholarship
and
Robert Bielfeldt Memorial Scholarship

Jack and Sue Arneson have endowed two scholarships in memory of Barbara Arneson Bielfeldt and Robert Bielfeldt. These scholarships are awarded to Moorhead High School graduating seniors based on merit.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Nicole Anne Blilie Memorial Scholarship

The Nicole Anne Blilie Scholarship was established in 2008 in memory of Nicole Blilie who was a student at Moorhead High School. She earned her academic letter as a junior. Her favorite subjects were math and science. She played the flute and was active in Key Club.

In August before her senior year, Nicole developed a very aggressive form of adult Lymphoma; she died only four months later, just before Christmas. She never attended a day of classes in her senior year. She was graduated posthumously with her classmates of 2008.

Nicole had a very special place in her heart for small children and was anticipating a career in nursing. It is with this in mind that her scholarship is presented to someone interested in the medical/nursing field. We were proud to be able to present the first scholarship to a member of her class, the Class of 2008. Nicole's legacy will continue for many years to come.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Loren Buslee Memorial Scholarship

In 1993, a scholarship was endowed in memory of Loren Buslee, former band director at Moorhead High School. This endowment was made possible by Eunice Pitmon, orchestra teacher in the Moorhead Schools. This scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing a career in music or teaching and demonstrating merit.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Marlene Deist Memorial Scholarship

In September 2005, Moorhead High School lost a valued special education teacher, and all of us on the staff lost a dear friend, Marlene Deist. Now her legacy of work with special education students will live on through a memorial scholarship given by her husband, Wayne, and children Sara (Gideon) Stanley and Ben (Nancy) Deist.

Marlene was born and grew up in Elbow Lake, MN. She attended Fergus Falls College and then Augustana College, earning a degree in Deaf Education. She taught in Jacksonville, IL and Phoenix, AZ after she and Wayne were married. The couple then moved to Moorhead where Marlene taught for 28 years. In 1996, she completed her Master's Degree from St. Thomas and began her work in learning disabilities. I started at MHS that year and was privileged to work with Marlene every year and got to know her well.

Marlene taught English classes primarily, helping students read a novel and understand it, providing specialized Lindamood reading and spelling training, and working on sentence and paragraph writing. Her goal was to develop independence and confidence in young people struggling to overcome their learning disabilities and, often, their complex home and family situations. She refused to let students give up on themselves, encouraging them with smiles, humor, and the occasional wake-up call to get moving. A student could ask for no better advocate on the daunting path to graduation.

Marlene took early retirement in the fall of 2004 to battle ovarian cancer. She faced that foe with the same energy and optimism she had demonstrated in teaching young adults how to succeed despite their learning problems. Her courage, faith, and upbeat attitude during her illness were amazing, and her e-mail messages often encouraged us to be hopeful. She had always pushed her students to do their best, and I'm sure she demanded no less of herself. Marlene died peacefully on September 20, 2005.

The scholarship honoring Marlene is a fitting tribute to her dedication to her students. The annual scholarship will be designated for a graduate planning a career in special education. Through those graduates, Marlene will continue to help special education students to succeed. Thank you, Wayne, Sara, and Ben for making this possible!

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

James E. Garrity Family Scholarship

In keeping with the family tradition of commitment to community giving, Esther Garrity, widow of well-known Judge James E. Garrity, has found yet another way to keep that family tradition alive. This time it is through a memorial gift in Judge James E. Garrity's name.

Judge Garrity is warmly remembered for his public service. As the city attorney for Moorhead for 20 years followed by his long tenure on the bench as Clay County District Judge, Jim Garrity was known not only as a role model, but also as a mentor to many young people entering law. Voluntary positions such as sitting on the Salvation Army Board and serving as Commander of the Moorhead American Legion were a benefit to the community and a pleasure to Jim.

The Garrity family has an intimate connection with Moorhead High. Esther Garrity taught English at Moorhead High from 1950 to 1953 and later worked there as a substitute teacher during the seventies. The Garrity children all graduated from MHS. James Jr. graduated in 1972 and is now a Neuro-ophthalmologist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Jane graduated in 1973 and is working as an RN at Innovis Hospital. John, MHS class of 1975, is employed as a Civil Engineer with MNDOT. Thomas graduated in 1978 and works as an attorney in Minneapolis. Stephen, 1982, serves as a radiologist at Meritcare in Fargo.

From the looks of their chosen professions it is obvious the Garrity family learned the lesson well that Jim and Esther taught them: A commitment to community giving is one of the most rewarding things to be found in anyone's life.

This merit-based scholarship is awarded annually to a Moorhead High School Senior graduating in the top 5% of the class.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Kurt Gigstad Memorial Scholarship

Mr. Gigstad, social studies teacher of Moorhead High School for 15 years, died unexpectedly on October 17, 2007. In honor of his memory, his family has established the Kurt Gigstad Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating Moorhead High School senior who has participated in the small government class.

Mr. Gigstad grew up in Thief River Falls, MN. After graduating from high school, he attended Moorhead State University, Northland State Community College and graduated from Southwest State University with a BA in Social Studies.

Kurt taught and coached baseball in Clarkfield, MN for 9 years. He moved to Fargo, ND in 1989 where he was a substitute teacher, blackjack dealer and coach for American Legion baseball. He taught in Dilworth, MN for a year before being hired in Moorhead.

Mr. Gigstad would go the extra mile for a student and had the ability to relate to all students, especially those having trouble in school.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Dr. Lynne Kovash Education Scholarship

Lynne Doxey Kovash graduated from Moorhead High School in 1970. During high school, she participated in swimming, yearbook and band. Kovash earned her bachelor's degree in language arts and secondary education and her master's degree in special education from Moorhead State University, now Minnesota State University Moorhead. She obtained K-12 principal, special education director and superintendent licenses from Tri-College University, Fargo, N.D. Kovash completed her doctorate in educational leadership through the University of North Dakota in 2009.

Dr. Kovash spent her entire career in education with Moorhead Area Public Schools. From 1994-96, she was a teacher on special assignment. In 1996-97, she became the assistant principal and transition coordinator at Voyager Elementary School. Following the closure of Voyager, Dr. Kovash served as an assistant principal and coordinator of the district's gifted and talented program before becoming supervisor of planning and assessment. Dr. Kovash served as assistant superintendent of teaching and learning from July 1999 until July 15, 2008, and then became the tenth superintendent of Moorhead Area Public Schools. Dr. Kovash retired in November 2017.

Dr. Kovash supported education for all students in Moorhead, spearheading the Moorhead Schools Legacy Foundation which later merged with Moorhead Area Education Foundation. The Dr. Lynne Kovash Educational Scholarship is given in her memory. Her husband and MHS graduate, Dennis, passed away in the fall of 2020 and a memorial was set up in his name to benefit the football program and nordic skiing.

Their children Jeremy, Seth, and Jennifer, were all Moorhead High School graduates.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Vogel Law Firm Scholarship

Vogel Law Firm of Moorhead has partnered with the Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation-Spuds Scholars since 2003 to award a yearly scholarship to a deserving Moorhead High School Senior who will be pursuing higher education at a post-secondary institution.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Roger O. and Elsie Pitsenbarger Family
Post-Secondary Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of Elsie Pitsenbarger and her family, the Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation awards a one-year scholarship to Moorhead High School alumni who are currently furthering their education at a post-secondary institution.

Roger Pitsenbarger graduated from Moorhead High School in 1939. He participated in band, orchestra, football, basketball and baseball. He attended Concordia College, the University of Minnesota, and North Dakota State University and earned his Jurist Degree from the University of North Dakota in 1947.

In 1947, Roger and Elsie moved to Moorhead and Roger started Transport, Inc., a bulk petroleum carrier. He also owned Kordel, Inc., which operates several Slumberland franchises in Minnesota.

Roger and Elsie have always been strong supporters of Moorhead and were major contributors to the Moorhead High School football stadium fund and the high school theater sound system. The Pitsenbargers' six children: Jeff Pitsenbarger, Beth Colman, Joan Kath, Kay Carvey, Mark Pitsenbarger and Lisa Kirkpatrick are all graduates of Moorhead High School. Roger was inducted into the Moorhead High School Hall of Honor shortly before his death in December of 2004. Elsie Pitsenbarger died in 2012.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Marlene T. Olson Memorial Scholarship

The Marlene T. Olson Memorial Scholarship was established by Roger Olson, Marlene's husband, in May 1999. Marlene, a 44 year-old second-grade teacher at Washington Elementary School in Moorhead, died from a viral heart infection on February 24, 1999.

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating Moorhead High School senior who will pursue a career in education with interest in education.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation *The Lloyd and Beverly Paulson Scholarship*

Lloyd Paulson has endowed a scholarship for a graduating Moorhead High School senior. This merit-based scholarship is awarded to a student who will attend school within 150 miles of Moorhead.

Lloyd Paulson was the co-founder of the Moorhead Area Education Foundation-Dollars for Scholars in 1991(now MLEF). He was the first President of the Foundation, and served as trustee, finance committee chairperson, and was their chief fundraiser. He also assisted many surrounding communities start Dollars for Scholars chapters.

Lloyd was a Partner-Manager of Scheels Hardware and All Sports for 28 years. After retiring, Lloyd volunteered his time with many community organizations.

Beverly was an organizer of the Swedish Cultural Society of the Red River Valley and was President of the Scandinavian Festival for 25 years. She served on the Board of Directors of the Heritage Education Commission at MSUM for 31 years, teaching adult education classes in Swedish and Scandinavian genealogy. Beverly also served on the Moorhead Charter Commission, rewriting the city charter.

Lloyd and Beverly were tireless supporters of young people in their ambition to gain an education.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Lloyd Paulson Vocational Scholarship

The Lloyd Paulson Vocational Scholarship was established in 2013 to assist a graduate planning to attend a vocational post-secondary program. Lloyd Paulson was the co-founder of the Moorhead Area Education Foundation-Dollars for Scholars in 1991 (now MLEF Spud Scholars). He was the first President of the Foundation, and served as trustee, finance committee chairperson, and was a consistent champion of the organization. He also assisted many surrounding communities start Dollars for Scholars chapters. Lloyd was a tireless supporter of young people in their ambitions to gain an education.

Lloyd had a particular interest in encouraging students who have chosen a two-year or technical college degree program, whether it is for M-State in Moorhead or another institution in the area.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Daniel & Denise Paulson Family Scholarship

“In appreciation of the excellent education and opportunities our children received both as Moorhead High students and recipients of Moorhead Spud Scholars Scholarships, we are honored to establish the Daniel and Denise Paulson Family Scholarship to be awarded annually to a Moorhead High School Senior who plans to pursue a health related career.”

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Beverly Paulson Memorial Scholarship

Lloyd Paulson has endowed a scholarship for a graduating Moorhead High School senior in memory of his wife Beverly. This merit-based scholarship is awarded to a student who will attend Moorhead State University-Moorhead.

Lloyd Paulson was the co-founder of the Moorhead Area Education Foundation-Dollars for Scholars in 1991 (now MLEF Spud Scholars). He was the first President of the Foundation, and served as trustee, finance committee chairperson, and was their chief fundraiser. He also assisted many surrounding communities start Dollars for Scholars chapters.

Lloyd was a tireless supporter of young people in their ambition to gain an education.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation *Roger O. Pitsenbarger Memorial Scholarship*

The Roger O. Pitsenbarger Memorial Scholarship was established in April 2005 by his wife, Elsie Pitsenbarger. Two merit-based scholarships will be awarded each year to graduating Moorhead High School seniors.

Roger Pitsenbarger graduated from Moorhead High School in 1939. He participated in band, orchestra, football, basketball and baseball. He attended Concordia College, the University of Minnesota, and North Dakota State University and earned his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of North Dakota in 1947.

In 1947, Roger and Elsie moved to Moorhead and Roger started Transport, Inc., a bulk petroleum carrier. He also owned Kordel, Inc., which operates several Slumberland franchises in Minnesota.

Roger and Elsie have always been strong supporters of Moorhead and were major contributors to the Moorhead High School football stadium fund and the high school's theater sound system. The Pitsenbargers' six children: Jeff Pitsenbarger, Beth Colman, Joan Kath, Kay Carvey, Mark Pitsenbarger and Lisa Kirkpatrick are all graduates of Moorhead High School. Roger was inducted into the Moorhead High School Hall of Honor shortly before his death in December of 2004.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Donald Hoberg Memorial Scholarship

The Donald Hoberg Memorial Scholarship was established by Karen Seljevold and family, in memory of her brother.

Don Hoberg was born October 4, 1953. He moved with his family to Moorhead when he was 6 years old. Don graduated from Moorhead High School in 1972. Don was vice-president of his senior class. He lettered in track, basketball and football, was a member of the ski club, and took part in many other school activities.

After graduating from Moorhead High School, Don entered Moorhead State University. His major was Mass Communications. He soon realized that his field of expertise was to be radio. He was a disc jockey, sold advertising and was station manager until his dream of ownership came true at station KZB100 in Minot, North Dakota. Don died on April 30, 1993.

This merit-based scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating Moorhead High School senior pursuing a career in mass communications.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Kay Hoberg Memorial Scholarship

The Kay Hoberg Memorial Scholarship was established by Karen Seljevold and family, in memory of her mother. Kay Hoberg was a member of the MAEF Foundation Board (now MLEF) and a supporter of the enhancement of educational opportunities for Moorhead students. This merit-based scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating Moorhead High School senior pursuing a career in visual arts.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Donald and Roberta Lontz Family Scholarship

The Donald and Roberta Lontz scholarship was established in 1996 by Donald Lontz in memory of his wife, Roberta Lontz. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating Moorhead High School senior based on merit.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
The Shirley Lontz Memorial Scholarship

The Shirley Lontz Memorial Scholarship was established by her husband, Steve Slabik. Steve and Shirley's two daughters are Jennifer and Kelly. Shirley passed away in 1999. This merit-based scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating Moorhead High School senior. Shirley Lontz's interests included the visual arts and conservation, thus the scholarship is presented to a student pursuing a career in one of these areas.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Ron and Carolyn Gadberry Family Scholarship

The Ron and Carolyn Gadberry Family Scholarship was established in 2020 by their family.

Ron and Carolyn moved to Moorhead in 1963 and Ron started a teaching and coaching career at Moorhead High School. Ron taught Physical Education, Health and Drivers Education. He coached 19 years in Moorhead: serving 18 years as head wrestling coach, and 1 year as assistant coach. He also coached football and baseball until he took over the family farm in Hillsboro in 1968.

Ron and Carolyn met in Biology lab in 1955 and were married in 1957. Ron received his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Concordia College in Moorhead in 1958, and his Master's degree in Physical Education from South Dakota State University in 1962. He taught for a total of 48 years and coached for a total of 45 years.

Four of the Gadberry's children graduated from Moorhead High School with their fifth attending Probstfield Elementary for six years before the family moved to Hillsboro, ND where Ron continued to teach and farm.

Ron was inducted into the MHS Hall of Honor in 2009.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Scheels Hardware and Sports Scholarship

Scheels Hardware and sports has endowed three scholarships for graduating Moorhead High Seniors. These students are awarded to students excelling in academics and sports, who are planning to pursue a post-secondary education in the field of business.

“Three acres of potatoes were the seed for the first Scheels store back in 1902.”

Frederick A. Scheel, a German immigrant, used the \$300 he earned from that first harvest of potatoes as the down payment on the first Scheels, a small hardware and general merchandise store, in Sabin, MN. Over the years, Scheels opened stores in communities surrounding Sabin, including Fargo, ND, where Scheels Corporate Office is now located.

Firmly planted in the hardware business, Scheels started adding a small selection of sporting goods to their stores in 1954. As interest grew, more and more sports lines were added with athletic shoes and clothing being introduced to Scheels product mix in 1972. Scheels first all sports superstore opened in Grand Forks, ND in 1989. Today, Scheels is a 22+ store operation with stores in seven states including ND, IA, SD MT, MN, WI, and NE. Providing customers the world’s largest collection of sports, sportswear and footwear.

Scheels is an employee-owned private business that owes its consistent success to its empowered associates, managers and partners who think and make decisions for their individual store and their company.

Scheels Foundation – Bev Paulson Memorial

Scheels Hardware and sports has endowed a scholarship in memory of Bev Paulson. The scholarship is for a student planning to attend Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Bev, who passed away in spring of 2009, was an organizer of the Swedish Cultural Society of the Red River Valley. She was president of the Scandinavian Festival for 25 years. She served on the Board of Directors of the Heritage Education Commission at MSUM for 31 years, teaching adult education classes in Swedish and Scandinavian genealogy. She served on the Moorhead Charter Commission rewriting the city charter.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Al and Pat Swedberg Education Scholarship

Al was raised in Malmo, MN, and the Twin Cities area. In 1946, his family moved back to Malmo, where he attended a one room school through the eighth grade. He graduated from Aitkin High School in 1958, where he was active in football, wrestling, track and choir. After graduation, Al enlisted in the U.S. Navy until he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1963. During his time in the Navy, Al married his high school sweetheart, Pat.

In 1963, Al decided to pursue an education at St. Cloud State University. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Special Education and taught in Roseville, MN. Al went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Special Education Administration. In 1969, Al was hired as the first Director of Special Education for Moorhead Area Public Schools. He continued to work as the Director of Special Education until he retired in 1999. Al also continued his studies and completed a Specialist degree in Education Administration from University of Minnesota. Al was active in many organizations and committees to promote Special Education, including Special Olympics. Al was an active member of the El Zagal Oriental Band and also a member of the Moorhead Masonic Lodge.

Pat grew up in rural Aitkin, MN and graduated from Aitkin High School. She attended St. Cloud State University and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Pat taught first grade in Osseo, MN, while Al attended college. After moving to Moorhead, Pat worked as a Title I teacher in a variety of Moorhead elementary schools until retiring in 1999. Pat was a Camp Fire leader, Sunday school teacher, and a member of Moorhead Lioness and El Zagal Band aids.

Al and Pat both enjoyed spending time with their family, hunting, fishing, reading, traveling to Florida in the winter months, and enjoying life at the lake in the summer.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation

Teacher of the Year (Named)

Recognizes the annual Teacher of the Year for Moorhead Schools. Nominees create positive environments for Spud Students, paving the pathway to a lifelong love of learning.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation *Hall of Honor Inductee (Named for Inductees)*

The Moorhead High School Hall of Honor recognizes alumni, faculty, staff and other community members who have demonstrated notable accomplishments or provided significant contributions to their school, community or society.

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Margaret E. McClarnen Horn Memorial Scholarship

The Margaret E. McClarnen Horn scholarship was established by Paul and Connie Horn in 1995. Paul's mother, Margaret, never had the opportunity to attend college. Paul and Connie established this memorial to provide assistance to a young woman from Moorhead High School who would have no other means of attaining a college education.

The scholarship is an award for tuition, books, room and board, not to exceed actual costs or \$5,000 per year for four years (or until the student chooses to stop school or graduate if prior to the four years expiring) to be used at the recipient's institution of choice (2 year or 4 year).

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Sue and Jerry Rogers Family Scholarship

Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation
Dr. Bette Midgarden Scholarship

Bette Midgarden was the valedictorian of the Moorhead High School class of 1966. She graduated summa cum laude from Concordia College with a bachelor of science degree in math and chemistry. Dr. Midgarden went on to earn her master's and doctor's degrees in math at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Dr. Midgarden taught briefly at North Dakota State University in Fargo before embarking on a long career at Minnesota State University Moorhead where she taught in the Mathematics department and was later named Vice President of Academic Affairs at MSUM. Dr. Midgarden returned to the classroom, before her retirement in 2020.