

# Linhart endowment will give young people opportunity to attend college and return to north central Nebraska

In 2008, when Mary Linhart of O'Neill passed away, it was a little known secret that she was sitting on top of a fortune that could change the lives of high school students in north-central Nebraska for years to come.

In her handwritten will, she requested that one-half of her estate be placed into a Youth Scholar College Scholarship Fund for local youth.

Administrators of her estate, in cooperation with the Nebraska Community Foundation, have set up the Youth Scholar College Scholarship Fund to fulfill her request.

Nearly one million dollars of original investment has been placed into an endowment.

The earnings from this endowment will be used on an annual basis, into perpetuity, to provide local students from the Holt, Boyd, and western Knox Counties with unique scholarship opportunities.

"The endowment will be used to fund the Youth College Scholarship Fund is substantial," said Andrew J. Hoffman, attorney for the late Mary Linhart.

This generous gift will be used to assist local high school and non-traditional students to further their edu-

cation.

This will have a real impact on students in north central Nebraska."

Scholarships will be awarded on a case-by-case basis.

Each scholarship will have a minimum value of \$1,000 per recipient.

Scholarships will be awarded annually to students who attend or attended schools in the above stated counties.

Eligible high schools are West Boyd (Naper, Butte, Spencer), Lynch, Stuart, Atkinson-West Holt, O'Neill, O'Neill St. Mary's, Chambers, Ewing, Niobrara and Verdigre.

Other students who have resided in this area for a minimum of four years will be eligible to apply.

Scholarship awards are not limited to high school seniors.

Existing college students and non-traditional applicants are also eligible, provided they meet other scholarship criteria.

The committee encourages non-traditional and community college applicants to apply.

Non-traditional applicants are those who have not been on a continuous course of study, but desire to pursue additional education to ad-

vance their careers.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on a host of criteria, with character being the overarching guidepost.

As Mary Linhart lived a principled, well-disciplined life, it is the committee's goal to provide scholarships that are consistent with her philosophies.

More importantly, it was also clear that Mary's goal was to provide opportunities for our local students. Emphasis will also be placed on students' desire to return to north central Nebraska to pursue their careers.

Applications are now being taken. Application guidelines and an application form can be downloaded at [www.nebcommfound.org/fund/youthscholarship](http://www.nebcommfound.org/fund/youthscholarship).

Applications are due on or before April 1, 2010. For more information contact scholarship committee member, Nicole Sedlacek, 402-336-1504.