



Linda Armstrong and Charles Keppard Scholarship

Eligibility requirements for the Linda Armstrong and Charles Keppard Scholarship were chosen by Linda Armstrong in memory of her late husband Charles “Chuck” Keppard. Chuck began working as a carpenter after serving in the Navy, UDT team, for three tours in Vietnam. He later worked as a dry waller, and ultimately created his own sub-contracting construction company based in Mills County, Iowa, working for large contractors such as Kiewit and Hawkins. He built a new family home in early 2000. Three of his sons now work in the construction industry in various capacities. In his retirement, Chuck enjoyed minor remodeling projects and put his creative mind to work by making most anything from a picture and a brief conversation with Linda. He admired anyone who worked with their hands.

The Armstrong family included stone masons, brick layers, carpenters, iron workers, and general “DIY fix-it” people, dating back to Linda’s great-great-grandfather, uncles, and cousins. Linda’s grandfather laid the cornerstone of many buildings at Omaha Boys Town and worked on the twin bell towers of the beautiful St. Cecelia Cathedral when he was employed with Mainelli Construction. Linda’s brother is a finish carpenter in Colorado, designing, building, and installing custom pieces for mountain residents. He, too, built his family home in the mountains.

Of the scholarship, Linda said, “In a small way, Chuck and I wanted the future generation to know the satisfaction of seeing a finished product or building, knowing you were responsible for part or all of its creation, using your knowledge and your hands.”

The following guidelines will be used in making the scholarship selection:

1. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide tuition aid for the post-secondary education for a graduating senior from any school district within Page, Mills, Montgomery, and Pottawattamie counties in Iowa and Cass, Nemaha, and Sarpy counties in Nebraska.

- a. Applicants must be planning to attend a trade/vocational school or community college in the Skilled Construction Trades which may include but are not limited to electrician, plumber, carpenter, welder, brick layer/stone mason, drywall, sheet metal, iron worker, pipefitter as well as general contractor supervisor/management positions.
 - b. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
 - c. Special consideration is also based on need, scholarly achievement, character, and reputation.
2. The Clarinda Foundation shall disburse the scholarship grant to the educational institution indicated by the recipient in one payment prior to the beginning of the fall semester of year in which the scholarship is awarded.
3. The selection committee shall consist of a minimum of four representatives: 1) one named by the Clarinda Foundation (who shall serve as the chair of the Committee), 2) the Clarinda High School Principal, 3) the Guidance Counselor (s) representing the districts from which the applications are received, and 4) one family representative of the fund.
4. The selection committee reserves the right to not award the scholarship should they determine that no applicant is worthy.
5. The application must be typed or computer generated and shall include an essay addressing the following:
 - a. Trade school/Community college the graduate plans to attend or those that they are considering.
 - b. The intended area of skilled trade study of the graduate and why they have chosen this area to study.
 - c. Any family connections to a skilled construction trade.
 - d. The graduate's contributions to their high school and the community.
 - e. Any work history the graduate may have.
 - f. The graduate's extracurricular activities.
6. The annual scholarship of \$1,000 from the fund shall be awarded as long as the fund balance permits.
7. The scholarship shall be awarded without regard to race, color, creed, gender, nationality, origin or physical handicap.