



2026 Merrick Foundation College Scholarship Directory

ALBERT E. & DOROTHY E. EMGARTEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a program in the agriculture field

ALICE KLINGENBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Chapman area address

AMERICAN LEGION POST #6 40 & 8 SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in nursing
- ✧ Good academic standing

AUSTIN & CLEO VANDERFORD SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Based on student's ability and work habits
- ✧ Financial need can be considered

BENJAMIN THOMAS LINDNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Archer, Central City or Palmer address
- ✧ Pursuing a career to work with children (pediatrics, education, child care, etc.)
- ✧ GPA 3.0 or above
- ✧ Financial need

BOB & BONNIE CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ GPA of 3.5+
- ✧ Financial need
- ✧ First preference to a program in nursing, second preference to another health-related field

CALVIN LEPP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident OR a graduate of Central City High School
- ✧ Pursuing an ag-related program, preference to agribusiness
- ✧ 4-H and/or FFA experience
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Financial need
- ✧ Additional essay: How has FFA benefited you and prepared you for the future? How has 4-H benefited you and prepared you for the future? If involved in both FFA and 4-H, be sure to provide two specific responses, one for each organization.

CAROLE A. JOSEPH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Palmer High School graduate
- ✧ Enrolled in a post-graduate program
- ✧ High GPA and active in undergraduate activities
- ✧ Prior recipients are eligible to reapply

CHARLES & ANN KUHLMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Chapman, Clarks, or Central City address and Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Pursuing a 2- or 4-year program in agriculture or medicine
- ✧ Exhibit participation in church and community activities
- ✧ Additional letter of recommendation from pastor or church leader

CLINTON M. WEGNER SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Palmer High School graduate
- ✧ Preference to a program in agriculture, music, or education
- ✧ Exhibit participation in extracurricular activities
- ✧ Preference for financial need

DARRELL & TWILA WIDMAN ENDOWED MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate (excluding students with a Palmer address or graduating from Palmer Public School)
- ✧ Pursuing a program in health care sciences, with a preference to pre-med, medical school, or nursing
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Financial need

DINSDALE SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Palmer High School graduate
- ✧ Sophomore college status fall 2026
- ✧ GPA average or above
- ✧ Exhibit involvement in college activities

DONALD NOUZOVSKY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Preference for financial need

DWAINE & CARMEN VAN PELT SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Central City High School graduate
- ✧ Enrolled in an education program with plans to be a vocational ag teacher

ED & LAURIE DEXTER SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County permanent resident
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in agriculture, business, or the medical field

EDWARD GENTLEMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Twin River graduate and previous recipient
- ✧ GPA of 3.0 or above
- ✧ Strong financial need

EDWARD MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Financial need

ELTON & NANCY ERICKSON SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a 4-year program in nursing, agriculture, education, or computer science
- ✧ Academic performance, leadership, school activities, reliability, and courtesy

ELWIN & LUCILE FERRIS SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ 4-H and/or FFA experience
- ✧ Pursuing a program in agriculture, music, or art
- ✧ Financial need (not required – but may be considered)
- ✧ Additional essay: How has FFA benefited you and prepared you for the future? How has 4-H benefited you and prepared you for the future? If involved in both FFA and 4-H, be sure to provide two specific responses, one for each organization.

EUGENE FISHBURN SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Chapman area address
- ✧ Junior or senior college standing fall 2026
- ✧ Academic success in college

FRED, ESTHER, DONALD & SHIRLEY MAE LEWIS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school senior
- ✧ Pursuing a degree in electronics, technology, mechatronics, and/or computer programming

GARY BADER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Experience exhibiting beef cattle in 4-H
- ✧ Additional essay: Describe your experience showing beef cattle in 4-H and how it has positively impacted your life.

GRIFFITH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in elementary education
- ✧ GPA of 3.0 or above
- ✧ Exhibit volunteer experience with elementary students
- ✧ Financial need

GUY & PAULINE LAMBERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Palmer High School graduate
- ✧ Junior or senior college standing OR enrolled in a post-graduate program fall 2025

HARRY F. PROCHASKA & EDITH STONE PROCHASKA SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Palmer High School graduate
- ✧ Pursuing degree in education or music

HOHNROTH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Merrick County 4-H for 5 years and/or FFA for 3 years
- ✧ Additional essay: How has FFA benefited you and prepared you for the future? How has 4-H benefited you and prepared you for the future? If involved in both FFA and 4-H, be sure to provide two specific responses, one for each organization.

J. OREN HOBACK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Sophomore college status fall 2025
- ✧ GPA of 2.5 or above
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in agriculture with preference towards farming/ranching
- ✧ Community service

JACK & DOROTHY BURGER SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Sophomore college status fall 2026
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in education
- ✧ GPA of 2.5 or above

JAMES & MARILYN HEINS SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Central City High School graduate
- ✧ GPA of 2.5 to 3.5
- ✧ Three letters of recommendation – one each from a teacher, pastor & employer
- ✧ Financial need

LARRY DEARKING, DVM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a 2- or 4-year program of study or professional degree in an agriculture related field

LEANNE ZMEK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Enrolled in an accredited beauty or barber school
- ✧ Financial need

LEONARD & DORIS AERNI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Physical or intellectual disability
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study at a community college, technical school, or business school
- ✧ Additional essay: How have you demonstrated perseverance, high character, and high effort in response to an intellectual or physical disability diagnosis?
- ✧ If no applicant meets these criteria, open to a student pursuing a degree in an ag related field

LINDNER-VAN PELT HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident who graduated from Central City High School or Palmer High School
- ✧ GPA of 2.5 or above
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in agriculture, education, business, or science
- ✧ Financial need

MAYNARD & LOIS FULLINGTON SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Sophomore college status fall 2026

MERRICK COUNTY CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident OR Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a program in an agricultural related field
- ✧ Applicant's parent/guardian must be a member of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association

MICHAEL V. BITTINGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ High Plains Community or Central City High School graduate with a Clarks or Central City address
- ✧ Sophomore college status

MYRTLE & JIM CLARKE SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Central City High School or Nebraska Christian graduate OR a resident of Central City, Clarks, Fullerton, Hordville, Polk, or the lake areas south of Central City
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Demonstrates achievement outside of school
- ✧ Financial need

RALPH STANLEY & ELLA HALSTEAD SEVERANCE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Financial need

RAY & MILDRED MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Western Merrick County area address
- ✧ Of the two required reference letters, one must be from a school official

RAYMOND, LEONARD & LOIS STEGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in the medical field

RAYMOND W. STAROSTKA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Preference given to students pursuing a program of study in agriculture or science

RICHARD J. STEINER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Pursuing degree in the mental health field
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Financial need may be considered

RICHARD MATTSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Sophomore college status fall 2026
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in agriculture at a Nebraska institution
- ✧ GPA of 3.0 or above
- ✧ Financial need

RUSS RUSSELL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County high school senior or resident
- ✧ Participant in 4-H activities
- ✧ First preference to equine-related programs; second preference to a veterinarian program; third preference to a physical or occupational therapy program
- ✧ Financial need
- ✧ Additional essay: Please describe your experience with horses, including the impact working with horses has had on your life.

SCOTT/RUGE & FRIENDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Physical or intellectual disability
- ✧ If no applicant meets these criteria, open to a student seeking a degree in an area that will benefit those with disabilities

SHIRLEY MAE LEWIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ Pursuing a degree in History with preference to interest in ancestry
- ✧ Additional essay: Detail your ancestral ties to Merrick County

SUMMER PAULSEN SIMON, CLASS OF 2001, MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Central City High School graduate
- ✧ Battling or overcame a serious or life-threatening health issue such as cancer, heart conditions, seizures, epilepsy, etc.
- ✧ Additional essay: Describe how battling your serious disease or diagnosis has changed your outlook on life.
- ✧ If no applicant meets these criteria, open to a student pursuing a degree in early childhood education

VERNIE L. LOCK SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident or Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ Enrolled in an accredited beauty or barber school

VIRGIL & NORA LINDNER SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Archer, Central City or Palmer address
- ✧ Pursuing a program of study in agriculture or education
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Financial need

WARREN & VIRGINIA MARSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ GPA of 3.0 or above
- ✧ First preference to those pursuing a program of study in the medical field
- ✧ Second preference to other health-related disciplines
- ✧ Financial need

WAYNE & MILDRED HILDER SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County resident
- ✧ GPA of 3.5 or above
- ✧ Enrolled in a nursing program

WILLA FREELEND, WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Central City High School graduate
- ✧ Female student pursuing a 2- or 4-year program of study in the business field
- ✧ Exhibit community service and good citizenship

WILLIAM & EMMA STEFFEN SCHOLARSHIP

- ✧ Merrick County high school graduate
- ✧ GPA of 3.0 or above
- ✧ First preference to those pursuing a program of study in nursing at a Nebraska institution
- ✧ Second preference to other health-related disciplines
- ✧ Exhibit leadership in school activities, good moral character and behavior, dependable, and organized

**To find out more about our scholarships or
how you can start a scholarship fund, please contact us!**

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