



## 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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