



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation Continues to Expand Scholarship Program

The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation is a non-profit organization in Elkhorn, NE, dedicated to enriching education for students in the Elkhorn Public Schools District. Our mission is to promote student achievement and the unity of our community and its public schools by encouraging, supporting, and recognizing excellence in innovative education, quality school programs, and civic involvement. One way we fulfill our mission is through our robust Scholarship Program.

As recently as May 2023, the Foundation awarded 198 Community Funded Scholarships and 243 ACHIEVE Scholarships totalling over \$550,000. The Foundation encourages students to continue their education after high school and has made a significant investment in building a robust scholarship program to administer both Community Funded Scholarships and the Foundation's ACHIEVE Scholarship Program. Investments in technology, staffing, and a matching funds program enable the Foundation to grow our Scholarship Program and make it easy for donors to partner with us to provide additional opportunities for Elkhorn students.

Our ACHIEVE Scholarship Program is unique because it offers two pathways. The ACHIEVE Advanced Placement (AP) Scholarship began in 2009 with the goal of rewarding students who engage in academically rigorous coursework, participate in school activities, and volunteer in the community. A recent addition to our ACHIEVE Program is the ACHIEVE Career & Technical Education (CTE) Scholarship.

With the local and national shortage of skilled and technical workers, we were driven to address this issue at the high school level. We brainstormed ways to help students develop skills, habits, and attitudes that would prepare them for future employment success and came up with this new scholarship that parallels our existing ACHIEVE advanced Placement (AP) Scholarship.

The ACHIEVE CTE Scholarship is an exciting addition and will award students who complete a series of coursework in one Career & Technical Education Program of Focus (Skilled and Technical Sciences, Family and Consumers Sciences, or Business), as well as complete a multitude of Career Exploration Experiences, Extracurricular Activities, and Community Services. The goal of this new scholarship is to encourage students to get a more expansive view of careers. We firmly believe that regardless of the path our students choose, they will be career and college ready when they leave the Elkhorn Public Schools.

Through our scholarship program, we help build a long-lasting connection between donors and students. Donors have an avenue to give back. Some families may start a scholarship to honor a deceased family member. Other individuals or businesses want to promote certain fields including healthcare, education, the trades, and so on. Additionally, our scholarship program helps students continue their education in a world where education only gets more expensive. Scholarship programs are highly beneficial for donors, students, and the community because it fosters a connected community spirit.