



# Helen Bergstrom Ernst Scholarship



The Helen Bergstrom Ernst Scholarship Trust was established by the Will of Helen Bergstrom Ernst to further the education of students who are members of The Spirit Lake Tribe. Helen was born and raised in St. Paul, MN but became fascinated with the Lake Region when her brother Arthur Bergstrom moved to Devils Lake, ND in 1919 and founded Lake Chevrolet in 1923. When Helen came to visit her brother, she developed a deep and abiding love for the people of the Lake Region and especially for the members of the Spirit Lake Tribe. She admired the spirit of the people. As a result of her love, this scholarship trust was established.

To obtain an application or further information regarding the Helen Bergstrom Ernst Scholarship please contact:

Penny Yankton  
Spirit Lake Tribe Education Office  
P.O. Box 359  
Fort Totten, ND 58335-0359  
Phone: 701-230-9734  
[www.spiritlakenation.com](http://www.spiritlakenation.com)

#### Qualifications Include:

- Applicant must be currently enrolled or enrolling in an accredited post-secondary institution.
- Applicant must be a member of the Spirit Lake Tribe.
- Required to carry 12 or more credits per term.
- Term and cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 basis.
- Applications are due on or before September 29, 2023.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- One half of the amount awarded will be paid in the fall semester. Spring semester payment is conditioned on proof of full time enrollment and term and cumulative grade point of 2.0 on 4.0 scale.

The Helen Bergstrom Ernst Scholarship Trust is a private foundation and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions to the trust are eligible for tax deductions and can be directed to:

Helen Bergstrom Ernst Scholarship Trust  
c/o First United Bank (formerly known as Ramsey National Bank)  
PO Box 160  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

HELEN BERGSTROM ERNST SCHOLARSHIP  
GUIDELINES

- 1) Scholarship applications are accepted through the last Friday in September.
- 2) Students are required to maintain a minimum of a C average or 2 points on a 4-point basis; further clarified to mean a 2.0 term and a 2.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible<sup>1</sup>. First time, first term students will be considered to have an automatic 2.0 GPA. This was added to treat high school graduates fairly when they are applying for the first time.<sup>2</sup>
- 3) Students are required to be full time, which is a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. Full time enrollment by graduate students will be considered on a case by case basis depending on the requirements of the specific graduate program.<sup>3</sup>
- 4) Financial aid is taken into consideration. Students will not be awarded more than their unmet need.<sup>4</sup>
- 5) The school the student is attending must be an accredited school with a recognized program for under-graduate or graduate students.
- 6) The Scholarship Committee will meet during the Fall Semester after the information has been compiled by the Spirit Lake Tribe Education Office.
- 7) Scholarships will be payable to the school for the benefit of the student. The scholarship checks are provided to the Spirit Lake Tribe Education Office to forward to the school as they maintain the complete application and school address. Scholarship recipient addresses will be provided to the Trustee as required for federal tax return purposes.
- 8) Awards will be made for the regular school year and one-half will be mailed during the fall semester. The second semester payment will be distributed by the Trustee once they have been notified by the Spirit Lake Tribe Education Office that the student is enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits and the term and cumulative grade point average of 2.0 have been met.
- 9) Because the Committee meets annually, they directed the trustee to track refunded or undistributed awards due to ineligibility of the student. In the event funds are awarded but not utilized by the student and remain available at second semester, the committee authorized the trustee to pay any undistributed funds equally to the colleges of those students who qualify for the second semester payment. The trustee will contact the committee members by letter notifying them of the amount, if any, to be distributed under this method and obtain their approval prior to distribution.<sup>5</sup>
- 10) The footnotes reflect the meeting dates when the Scholarship Committee unanimously approved changes to the guidelines. The changes are reflected in the minutes of the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> October 5, 2015

<sup>2</sup> October 5, 2017

<sup>3</sup> December 9, 2021

<sup>4</sup> November 4, 2022

<sup>5</sup> September 15, 1999