

Dakota Opportunities in Education

Foundation Scholarships

Merle and Beulah Iserman Scholarship

Merle and Beulah Iserman both graduated from Dakota High School and were long-time supporters of the Dakota Community School District. Merle served on the school board for many years and Beulah worked as an instructional aide in Special Education at the Dakota primary school for 11 years.

Together they farmed in the Rock Grove area until they retired and moved to Rock City. Music was a very big part of their lives, and they sang for many weddings and funerals within the Dakota School District, sang in their church choir, and sang with the RSVP singers and the Freeport Choral Society. They were also avid supporters of the Concert and Marching Band programs while their daughter Kay attended school at Dakota.

The Merle and Beulah Iserman Scholarship was created to help a college bound senior with financial need along with a genuine desire to pursue a college education. Preferences will be given to students who plan to major in education, special education, music or agriculture. This scholarship is not about the student with the highest GPA or the highest-class rank and should not be a determining factor.

Eligibility/Qualifications:

- A Dakota High School Senior planning to enroll full-time (12 or more credit hours) in a post-high school educational program in the fall following graduation
- Proof of a "B" average or better with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
- Proof of good attendance during their junior and senior years of high school
- Proof of college acceptance/commitment majoring in education, special education, music or agriculture

Amount: up to \$750 (may award up to 3 scholarships)

Payment: Funds for educational related expenses such as tuition, fees, and books. Payment will be made directly to the student upon proof of acceptance and full-time enrollment (12 or more credit hours) for the fall semester. The funds must be used during the first two college semesters following the recipient's high school graduation.

Directions: Complete application and return to Mr. Kevin Cline by ***Friday, April 2, 2026***. The applicant must provide an official transcript with two letters of recommendation from a teacher or any person (not related to the applicant's family) who knows the applicant well. Relationship to the applicant must be stated in the letter. All application materials must be written using MS word or other electronic word processing.

Personal Information:

Last Name First MI

Date of Birth

Address

Phone

City State

Zip Code

Information: Attach a ½ page double spaced story about yourself.

Activities: Include a separate sheet listing school activities, out-of-school activities, work experience and include any honors, volunteering, and awards, etc.

Goals: Write a brief paragraph describing your educational plans and career goals.

Financial Need: Write a brief paragraph describing your personal or family financial needs.

Statement of Qualification: Write an essay explaining why you should be considered for this scholarship and why you chose that particular college or university.