



**Serving the residents of  
Custer County since  
1991**

Anselmo ♦ Ansley  
Arnold ♦ Berwyn  
Broken Bow ♦ Callaway  
Comstock ♦ Mason City  
Merna ♦ Oconto  
Sargent ♦ Westerville

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Grant application deadline is  
**April 30.** For grant  
guidelines and to download  
the application, go to  
[custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org).

**Student Photos**

Due to space limitations,  
student's names are not able to  
be printed. Check out our  
Facebook page for those details.  
Thank you Custer County Chief  
for taking the photos!

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**Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Email: [CusterFoundation@msn.com](mailto:CusterFoundation@msn.com)  
Phone: 308-872-2232  
Online: [custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org)

Photo Credit: Custer County Chief



**Spring 2022**

**Custer County Foundation Awards \$118,850 in Scholarships!**

The Custer County Foundation held their annual Scholarship Award Ceremony on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's ceremony was held at the Arnold High School Gymnasium in Arnold, NE where \$118,850 was awarded. Since its' inception 31 years ago, the Foundation has awarded over \$1.4 million in scholarships to Custer County students.

Alicia Hermsmeyer, Board Member and President of the Custer County Foundation, conducted the welcome to the estimated 350 people in attendance. Alicia also introduced our guest speaker, Grace Magill, who grew up in Arnold and graduated from Arnold High School. Grace attended University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Grace currently lives in Kearney, Nebraska and is pursuing her Master's degree in Business Administration at UNK. Grace works on campus as the Communications and Programming Counselor.

Grace shared her story with the guests in attendance. She said her time at UNK was unique in the fact that she was a student and an employee. She shared a few things she has learned along the way. Going into college, money was almost a dirty word and no one talked about it. While working in the financial aid office, Grace learned that was not the case; she found people, who talked about money, were often more prepared. Another piece of advice she offered was, you don't reap too much reward without taking risks. She has seen students miss out on opportunities because they didn't take a chance; you can't be afraid to fail. In closing, Grace gave some great advice stating, "people might not always remember what you did, but people will always remember how you made them feel."

This scholarship ceremony continues to be successful because of our special guests, the donors, who travel from places like Kansas City and Lincoln, as well as many from Custer County. Not only are they in attendance to present their scholarships, but to share great stories about their families and offer words of advice and encouragement. Their presence also gives them an opportunity to meet the students whose lives they are directly impacting. Another unique aspect of the ceremony is the element of surprise for the students receiving the scholarships. Until their name is called, they are neither aware of the scholarship they are receiving nor the amount. This anticipation makes the event even more enjoyable.

Executive Director Lindsay Cook announced eighty-five scholarships would be presented to eighty students for a total amount of \$118,850 awarded! Nearly 1,200 applications were received and selecting the recipients was not an easy task. After all the awards were presented, the guidance counselors were thanked for all the assistance they offer the students with the application process. The ceremony closed by inviting attendees to enjoy refreshments, while thanking those in attendance and wishing the graduates the best of luck as they begin new chapters in their lives.

Dr. Loren Jacobsen presented the 1952 Football Team scholarship on behalf of the late Bill Penn. Jacobsen said, "Bill graduated 70 years ago and this was his way of paying it forward. He loved Broken Bow and he loved to sit and talk about the football team." If you would like to learn more about establishing a scholarship through the Custer County Foundation, please contact the office.

## Scholarship Photos (photo credit: Custer County Chief)



### Spring Grant Deadline April 30th!

The goal of the Custer County Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the Custer County area by supporting the needs of the people in each respective community. One way the Foundation strives to achieve this goal is through their grant program. Any nonprofit group, that falls under the guidelines of the Foundation's grant policy, can apply for a grant from the Custer County Foundation. Funds are usually granted in the areas of civic, culture, health, education, environment, and social services. To review the criteria and download an application, please visit the Foundation's website at [custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org). Select "Grants", and then select "Guidelines" from the drop-down menu. The current grant deadline is fast approaching! Please submit grant applications prior to the April 30th deadline. Pictured here is a grant recipient from the Fall.



Merna Volunteer Fire Dept received a grant for \$7,000.

## Custer County Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Fund



Custer County has been experiencing many devastating grass fires, taking a toll on all the volunteer fire departments in the county. The Custer County Foundation is seeking monetary donations to assist all Custer County Fire Departments. All donations received by the Foundation will be distributed back, 100%, split equally between all the fire departments in the county. The Custer County Foundation will match the first \$10,000 in donations by using funds made available through the Yanagida Challenge Match.

Please make your donations payable to Custer County Foundation and note "Fire Assistance Fund" in the memo line. You can either mail donations to PO Box 304

Broken Bow, NE 68822, or make donations online by going to [CusterCountyFoundation.org](http://CusterCountyFoundation.org) and select the "Click Here to Make a Donation to CC Fire Departments" button on the home page. The last day to make a donation to the fire assistance fund is Friday, May 6th.



### Sustaining Membership

We are well on our way to reaching our 2022 goal of **\$20,000!** Thank you for any support you have given! Please help us meet our goal by becoming a member today. Both businesses and individuals are encouraged to take this important step which is vital to the future of your community and Custer County.

A gift to the Foundation ensures we can continue our mission of charitable giving to benefit the residents throughout Custer County. As a way to recognize your generous support, we will publish your name in our 2023 Winter Newsletter. Your name will also appear in our 18th Annual Gala & Auction program.

**When we circle together,  
we CAN make a difference!**

The success of the Foundation is a direct reflection of our generous supporters. Donations from our valuable members allow us to perform daily activities that create opportunities for a greater impact.



The Foundation thrives today because of past and present Custer County residents who have a strong desire to give back to communities where they have lived, prospered, worked and played. Please consider becoming a Sustaining Member today. Thank you!

**Yes!** I want to support the efforts of the Custer County Foundation!

**Individual • Family • Business  
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

- |                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000+    | <b>DIAMOND</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999 | <b>PLATINUM</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 | <b>GOLD</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-\$249 | <b>SILVER</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50-\$99   | <b>BRONZE</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____    | Other Contribution |



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(As you would like it to appear in CCF Publications.)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I request to remain anonymous in any publications.

**Please make checks payable to  
Custer County Foundation & return to:  
PO Box 304 • Broken Bow, NE 68822**

*Thank You!*

The Custer County Foundation, Inc. is a public charity and your gift, in most cases, will qualify for a federal income tax deduction. As required by law, it is important to acknowledge that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for this contribution.

# Scholarship Stats



## 2022 Scholarship Program at a Glance

**157** Total Students Who Submitted Applications

**1,179** Total Applications Submitted

**85** Total Scholarships Awarded

**80** Total Scholarship Winners  
13 Anselmo-Merna, 7 Ansley, 3 Arnold, 30 Broken Bow, 3 Callaway,  
4 Sargent, 20 to current College Students

**\$118,850** Total Scholarship Amount Awarded

**\$1,474,416** Total Scholarship Amount Awarded Since 1991



The following students were awarded scholarships from the Custer County Foundation in 2022.

**#livelikePat Memorial**

Abigail Wiest

**1952 Football**

Austin Harvey

**Adams Land & Cattle, LLC**

Sawyer Bumgarner

Alyssa Cyboron

Karson Gaffney

Breanna Reinke

Kaylee Rosentreader

Molly Staples

**AgLand ATV Mechanical**

Dakota Havel

Frazier Kaelin

**Ansley Memorial**

Samuel Loy

**Arrow Seed**

Cody Nelson

Cooper Slingsby

**Sam and Adaline Bailey Memorial**

Reagan Cool

**Becton-Dickinson**

Taci Flinn

Michaela Myers

Gerald Waterhouse

**Dr. Jackson J. Bence Memorial**

Emery Custer

**Anthony Blum Memorial**

Carsten Fox

**Margaret Bradley Memorial**

Garrett Porter

**Roscoe & Marguerite Bristol**

Chancey Hoblyn-Bittner

Brianna Ryan

**Broken Bow High School**

Chad Schmidt

**Norm Custer Memorial & Jan Custer**

Madison Jackson

**Custer County Corn Growers**

Bryce Schmidt

Cyrus Wells

**Custer County Foundation Board of Directors**

Nolan Osborn

**Custer County Home Extension**

MaShayla Burnett

**Custer County Patriots for Freedom**

Lila Bloomer

**Custer County Welding & Electrical**

Matthew Miller

**DK Get Going**

Samuel Loy

Irelyn Rosfeld

**Joan Downey RN Memorial**

Delani Haines

**Pat Downey Memorial**

Dalton Duryea

**Crystal Esch Memorial**

Cyrus Wells

**EZ IT Solutions Information Technology**

Zackery Holloway

**Female Academic Athletic**

Joscelyn Coleman

**Forsyth Family**

Keifer Anderson

Kylen Borders

Ava Williams

**Fox Theater**

Nolan Johnson

**Ann Fox Memorial**

Jaide Chandler

**Waleta L. Gies Memorial**

Kylie Grafe

**George & Bernice Halstead Memorial**

Faith Bierman

Carly Gracey

**Zane Harvey Memorial**

Brody Ridder

Daine Wardyn

**Hazelle Jacobsen Headley**

Kennedy Garcia

Audrey Leach

**Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Broken Bow Lodge #119**

Rayelee Smith

Haley Wells

**Bob & Verna Lewis Student Athlete**

Elijah Downey

Kirsten Myers

**Lance Lovitt Memorial**

Audrey Hogg

**Steven Douglas Metcalf Memorial Medical**

Lydia Connell

**Mills-Hartman**

Vivian Slagle

**Sharon Elaine Millsap Memorial**

Jalea Chandler

**Jeanne M. Mohatt Memorial**

Lauren Reynolds

**Ivan & Helen Nelson Memorial**

Tyler Thomas

**Nebraska State Bank**

Blake Denson

Sophia Doyle

Drew Drake

Rhett Safranek

Jonathan Schaaf

**Gene O'Brien Memorial**

Kennedy Garcia

**Nic Ostergard Memorial**

Grace Cantrell

**Earnest M. & Elizabeth A. Rains Memorial**

Kailyn Scott

**Verne & Helen Reynolds**

Carter Johnson

**Dr. Duane Rice Memorial & Joanne Rice**

BaiLee McMillan

**Harry & Lenora Richardson**

Kya Scott

**Ralph & Lorraine Scott Family**

Carli Bailey

**Dr. Howard B. & Maurine C. Stevens**

Elissa Simmons

**Lorraine E. Still**

Kaitlyn Jacquot

**Richard "Dick" & Mary A. Stone Memorial**

Kade Bottorf

**Burrel & Anna Mae Taylor Family**

Montannah Wilder

**TEAM Physical Therapy**

Lindsay Schauda

Kya Scott

**Ransom Varney Memorial Pharmacy**

Samuel Schendt

**Maxine Weldin Perpetual**

Anna Lindstrom

**Fred & Alice Werner**

Macy Miller

**Dr. Clyde W., Ethelyn E. Wilcox & Carol Ann Wilcox-Stiff Memorial**

Bridget Slagle

**Roy & Dot Yanagida**

Keegan Baxter

Natasha Morris

**Irvin E. & Margery B. Yohn**

Callie White

**Richard & Print Zutavern Memorial**

Daine Wardyn



P.O. Box 304  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

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**Living Up to Our Motto:**  
"Preserving Our Heritage...  
Planning Our Future."

**Custer County Foundation, Inc.**

**Officers:**

President: Alicia Hermsmeyer, Ansley;  
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308-529-1919

Secretary: Brent Custer, Broken Bow;  
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Treasurer: Julie Johnson, Broken Bow;  
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**Board of Directors:**

Lizzie Bartak, Merna; 308-643-9131

Deb Girardin, Broken Bow; 308-870-4242

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Lisa Bell, Broken Bow; 308-870-3513

**Our Mission**  
The Custer County Foundation is a non-profit, community trust which is structured to seek out, receive, and administer funds to meet the present and future needs of the residents of Custer County. The funds are administered in the areas of health, arts and culture, social welfare, environment, education, and civics.

**CUSTER COUNTY  
FOUNDATION, INC.**  
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