



**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).

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

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Spring 2023



**Foundation Awards \$143,180 at the 2023 Scholarship Ceremony!**

The Custer County Foundation held its annual Scholarship Award Ceremony on Sunday, March 26, at the One Box Convention Center in Broken Bow, NE.

Alicia Hermsmeyer, Board Member of the Custer County Foundation, welcomed the estimated 350 people in attendance. Alicia also introduced our guest speaker, Kevin Thompson, who grew up in Broken Bow and graduated from Broken Bow High School. Kevin attended the University of Nebraska, Kearney where he completed his Bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. Kevin is also a graduate of Northwestern University’s “School of Police Staff and Command”, and most recently graduated from the FBI’s National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Session #283. Kevin currently lives in Kearney, Nebraska, with his wife, Amy. Kevin is the Operations Captain for the Kearney Police Department.

Kevin shared the lessons he has learned throughout his life and offered great pieces of advice to those in attendance. He went on to say, “A disciplined approach every day is what you need for the long haul. Success is no more than a few simple disciplines practiced every day.” Kevin touched on the people who will try to derail you and keep you from reaching your goal and the importance of avoiding those people. He also talked about the importance of consistency and finishing what you start. “You can’t start a race to finish first every time. You start the race just to finish. Consistency, that’s what you need to do and practice. Be a finisher.” A disciplined approach is also very important in Kevin’s life. He advised, “See failure as a beginning, not an end. Our habits decide our future. Be disciplined.” Kevin went on to discuss the importance of giving back. “Give back. Each of us has mentors in our lives who have always given us something, and you need to be able to give back to others and help them along their journey, as well.” In closing, Kevin said, “Without commitment, you will never start. But more importantly, without consistency you will never finish. Keep working, keep learning and building relationships, keep striving, and never give up.”

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 91 scholarships would be presented to 81 students for a total amount of \$143,180 awarded! Scholarships offered through the Foundation are for various fields of study: nursing, veterinary medicine, journalism, lineman, and cosmetology to name a few. Scholarships are available for four-year and two-year degrees. She went on to explain the selection process and thanked the scholarship committee for their hard work and dedication in selecting the recipients. 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. *Continued on page 2*

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



## Scholarship Ceremony (continued)

The ceremony closed by inviting attendees to enjoy refreshments and cookies while thanking those in attendance and wishing the graduates the best of luck as they begin new chapters in their lives.

The Custer County Foundation was established 32 years ago! Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$1.6 million in scholarships to Custer County students. Jerry Adams presented the Adams Land & Cattle scholarships. Jerry talked about serving on the Foundation Board in the infancy of the Foundation and mentioned how back then the Foundation had 2 or 3 scholarships and probably not even \$1,000. Now there are 91 scholarships! He talked about how Broken Bow and Custer County are great places to live and raise a family. If you would like to learn more about establishing a scholarship through the Custer County Foundation, please contact the office at 308-872-2232 or [custerfoundation@msn.com](mailto:custerfoundation@msn.com).

*\*Due to space limitations, student's names are not able to be printed. Check out our Facebook page for those details.\**

## Spring Grant Application 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 the 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.



Mason City Rural Fire Protections received a grant for \$10,000.

## Sustaining Membership

We are well on our way to reaching our 2023 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 2024 Winter Newsletter. Your name will also appear in our 19th 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**

- \$1,000+ **DIAMOND**
- \$500-\$999 **PLATINUM**
- \$250-\$499 **GOLD**
- \$100-\$249 **SILVER**
- \$50-\$99 **BRONZE**
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contribution

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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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



## 2023 Scholarship Program at a Glance

**145** Total Students Who Submitted Applications

**1,188** Total Applications Submitted

**91** Total Scholarships Awarded

**81** Total Scholarship Winners  
8 Anselmo-Merna, 2 Ansley, 1 Arcadia, 5 Arnold, 31 Broken Bow, 7 Callaway,  
6 Sargent, 21 to current College Students

**\$143,180** Total Scholarship Amount Awarded

**\$1,617,596** Total Scholarship Amount Awarded Since 1991



The following students were awarded scholarships from the Custer County Foundation in 2023.

**#livelikePat Memorial**

Lance Jones

**1952 Football**

Braylan Rynearson

**Adams Land & Cattle, LLC**

Genesis Gomez  
Macy Miller  
Jack Myers  
Noah Osmond  
Kennadi Ross

**AgLand ATV Mechanical**

Michael Goodner  
Frazier Kaelin

**Arrow Seed**

Taylor Ross  
Shaylyn Safranek

**Sam and Adaline Bailey Memorial**

Addison Bryant

**Becton-Dickinson**

Zane Druery  
Ryan Jackson  
Brooklyn Moyer

**Dr. Jackson J. Bence Memorial**

Lauren Svoboda

**Judith Blakeman Memorial**

Nadeema Haidle  
Tallianna Martin

**Anthony Blum Memorial**

Lainey Palmer

**Margaret Bradley Memorial**

Jace Schauda

**Roscoe & Marguerite Bristol**

Gradie Cunningham  
Jackson Henry

**Broken Bow High School**

Kay Selle

**Class of 1982**

Garrett Piper

**Custer County Corn Growers**

Nathan Kastens  
Kaden Paulsen  
Garett Schneider

**Custer County Foundation Board of Directors**

Laurn Johnson

**Custer County Home Extension**

Jacob Smallcomb

**Custer County Nursing**

Kassidy Cyboron

**Custer County Patriots for Freedom**

Grant Hrupek

**Custer County Welding & Electrical**

Matthew Miller

**DK Get Going**

Elsie Ottun  
Devin Peterson

**Joan Downey RN Memorial**

Madison Jackson

**Pat Downey Memorial**

Nathan Kastens

**Eberle Memorial**

Clay Witthuhn

**Crystal Esch Memorial**

Connor Wells

**EZ IT Solutions Information Technology**

Zackery Holloway

**Female Academic Athletic**

Hannah Barker

**Forsyth Family**

Zane Eggleston  
Ryleigh Lindstrom  
Jessy Lowe

**Fox Theater**

Jaden Vollenweider

**Ann Fox Memorial**

Abby Stallbaumer

**George D. & Dorothy L. Memorial & Betty F. Govier (daughter)**

Lucas Bell  
Zackary Gaffney  
Bailey Motley  
Shalee Wilder

**George & Bernice Halstead Memorial**

Lance Jones  
Halie Recoy

**Zane Harvey Memorial**

Noah Osmond  
Jace Schauda

**Hazelle Jacobsen Headley**

Ty Greenland  
Janessa Kettleborough

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

Daniel Flint  
Sara Lindstrom

**Joyce Lomax Memorial**

Lainey Palmer

**Lance Lovitt Memorial**

Mariah Brott

**Steven Douglas Metcalf Memorial Medical**

Calyn Laible

**Mills-Hartman**

Carlee Bartak

**Sharon Elaine Millsap Memorial**

Brianna Ryan

**Jeanne M. Mohatt Memorial**

Nolan Johnson

**Ivan & Helen Nelson Memorial**

Caidyn Flenniken

**Nebraska State Bank**

Jocelyn Bailey  
Landyn Cole  
Sid Miller  
Bridget Slagle  
Daine Wardyn

**Gene O'Brien Memorial**

Emily Tucker

**Nic Ostergard Memorial**

Connor Wells

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

Hannah Barker

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

Cole Ulmer

**Harry & Lenora Richardson**

Adrianna Kissell

**Mark & Pat Russell Coaching**

Roman Schmidt

**Lucile A. Schmitz Memorial**

Caslenn Schmidt

**Ralph & Lorraine Scott Family**

Gradie Cunningham

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

Emma Pearson

**Lorraine E. Still**

Callie White

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

Alexis Mauler

**Burrel & Anna Mae Taylor Family**

Jack Myers

**Adair & Mary Ellen Tunnell Memorial**

Silas Cool

**Ransom Varney Memorial Pharmacy**

Samuel Schendt

**Maxine Weldin Perpetual**

Zackary Gaffney  
Sydney Jacobsen

**Fred & Alice Werner**

Koral Schmidt

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

Lindsay Schauda

**Roy & Dot Yanagida**

Janel Daugherty  
Haley Wells

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

Justin Johnson

**Richard & Print Zutavern Memorial**

Tera Horkey



**P.O. Box 304  
Broken Bow, NE 68822**

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

Scan the QR Code below  
to make a membership  
donation.



**Custer County Foundation, Inc.**

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Vice-President: Brent Custer, Broken Bow;  
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308-870-1117

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**Executive Director:**

Lindsay Cook, Broken Bow; 308-627-2198

**Office Assistant:**

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  
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