

## David D. Berns Memorial Scholarship 2025-2026

---

**PURPOSE and BACKGROUND:** David Berns taught in the Nation Ford High School social studies department for 12 years before passing away on the first day of teacher week, August 14, 2023. He was an economics major in college until he tutored middle and early high school students during his junior year. He really enjoyed working with them, made a connection with them, and imagined what it would be like to be a teacher. David never regretted the decision to change his major to education and never looked back. Nearly 30 years into teaching, overall, one of his greatest satisfactions was hearing from past students and “hoping that he had a tiny little piece of something to do with how they’re doing today.”

This \$1,000 scholarship has been created by his family to contribute to a senior Nation Ford student’s education with the hope that their life’s work will be rewarding. In David’s words, “ the idea of the feeling that you made a difference in somebody’s life, whether as a teacher or any other occupation that you may choose, that is a feeling that doesn’t have a price tag on it.”

**ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible, a candidate shall be a graduating Nation Ford High School student which meets the following requirements:

- Have been accepted at an accredited two- or four-year institution of higher learning;
- Evidence of community service, volunteer work, and/or extra-curricular activities;
- Provide a 500-word essay that describes the candidate’s educational plans and occupational goals, and reflects how you might make a difference in somebody’s life through these plans and goals.
- Possess the following traits: dedicated student, outstanding character, high integrity, and passion for your chosen pursuit.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** A committee composed of an administrator, a guidance counselor, scholarship sponsor/ representative, and a teacher will review applications and essays to choose a recipient.

**AMOUNT:** One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one graduating senior from Nation Ford High School.

**APPLICATION:** Applicants are to complete and submit the application attached. In addition, applicants are to submit a 500- word essay that describes your educational plans and occupational goals, and reflects how you might make a difference in somebody’s life through these plans and goals.

Return the application and supporting material to Guidance no later than **March 2, 2026**.

**DISBURSEMENT:** The scholarship check will be made payable and sent directly to the university or college upon receipt of the Student Scholarship Acceptance Form (provided at award notification). Recipients will be announced at the Academic Awards Ceremonies in May.

