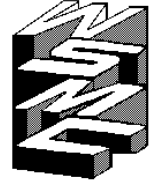


RITA LOWE SCHOLARSHIPS



Rita Lowe graduated from East High School in Bremerton in 1964. She was among the top twenty in a class of approximately 230. She and Arna Souza were the only women to complete the college-prep math sequence, completing Math Analysis as seniors. Rita was active in Camp Fire Girls from elementary school through high school. She and her father spent much time improving the ground at Camp Niwana. She received numerous awards from this organization. She was very competitive and thrived for academic excellence.

As I was looking through the Rita Lowe Scholarship Records, I found the following quotes. I do not know the author(s) of the quotes.

"Rita Lowe contributed to mathematics education in many ways: i.e., with students, with teachers, with local, state and national organizations."

"Rita Lowe cared. She cared about students who found learning difficult. She cared about students who were not being challenged."

"Rita Lowe believed teachers and students deserved the very best."

"Rita Lowe saw it as a challenge to provide activities that matched the needs of students."

"Rita Lowe committed her total life to the needs of students, with the mathematics challenge."

"Rita Lowe cared. Now in her memory, it is our turn to show we care for more than mathematics content. We must care for the students entrusted to us and with the gentlest of hands nurture each student's growth."

In her memory several scholarships are provided to teachers, high school students and college/university students to continue her dream of helping others enjoy mathematics and challenge themselves to their maximum.

This year the Rita Lowe Scholarship Fund is presenting one \$1,000 scholarship to a high school student who plans to become a mathematics educator and two \$1,000 scholarships to college/university students who are majoring in mathematics education. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a teacher (who is a member of WSMC) for professional development in January of 2009.

The following are recent Rita Lowe scholarship winners.

College Scholarship

Steven Alexander is a student at Gonzaga University in Spokane. He will be starting his junior year. Here are some quotes from his letters of recommendation: “Over the last two years I have gotten to observe Steven’s progress as a young mathematician with the potential to become a great teacher of mathematics.” “Steven’s commitment is to teaching mathematics, and this is supported by his passion for helping others.”

Julianne Stricherz is a student at Washington State University in Pullman. She received a Rita Lowe High School Scholarship in 2006. She said she will use the College Scholarship to help fund her tuition this next year. She will be starting her junior year and says math is still her favorite subject. A quote from her application: “This year, I observed two math teachers for one of my practicums. I learned so much from observing AP Calculus and the Algebra 1 classes. I was able to work with a small group of students and walk around and answer questions. I loved it! I can’t wait to be in a classroom teaching students.”

High School Scholarship

Kelci Clare graduated from Enumclaw High School and plans to attend Western Washington University in the fall of 2008. She has spent time, after school, helping students who are struggling in math at the middle school. In her application she said, “ I have absolutely loved every day I have spent at the middle school these past four years. My peers don’t always understand, but as far as I’m concerned, I have found something I love, something I’m good at, and something that makes a difference in the lives of people in my community, and I’m going to continue to do that for as long as I can. I plan to make teaching my career, and am very excited about my future.”