



## High Plains Memorial Scholarship

The High Plains Memorial Scholarship was created by Nancy and Will Weaver, in memory of Leona Jepsen Peterson, (1905-2003), Nancy Weaver's mother. Mrs. Peterson enjoyed learning and believed that education beyond high school was an important steppingstone for individuals to lead happy, productive, and successful lives.

Born in Chinook, Leona Peterson, affectionately known as "Tootie," was the youngest of six children. She graduated from Chinook High School as valedictorian of her class in 1923. After graduating from high school, she saved money for college by working as a secretary in Chinook. Also, during this time, she was hired to work as a secretary during a session of the Montana Legislature. Tootie was able to afford only one year of college. In 1929, she was married. Her husband, who was a telegrapher for the Great Northern Railway, died 15 years later.

As a 39-year-old widow and single parent, Leona moved her family to Missoula in 1945—the beginning of a sometimes lonely and difficult journey. She began her employment at the University of Montana as secretary to the Montana Study, an in-resident program established for Montana history authors. It was financed by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1951, Leona was appointed Assistant Director of the Business and Teacher Placement Bureau at the University of Montana. To supplement her income, she worked evenings in her home typing theses, reports, correspondence, etc., for college students and businesses. Both children attended college – her son was a U.S. Marine Corps jet pilot – sadly, he lost his life while flying a training mission in Florida in 1956; and her daughter became a teacher at the postsecondary level and earned a master's degree.

Those who knew Tootie well respected and admired her strong moral fiber and determination. She was blessed with a keen sense of humor and lightheartedness that helped carry her and her family through the hardest of times. She would be delighted to know that this memorial scholarship was created to lend financial assistance to students from the Montana high plains interested in pursuing a college education.



# High Plains Memorial Scholarship Application Instructions

## ELIGIBILITY

The High Plains Memorial Scholarship is an endowed award that annually recognizes a student who graduated from public high schools in Hill, Blaine, Roosevelt, and Cascade counties who demonstrate academic achievement, financial need, community involvement, and extra curricular activity. Additionally, the scholarship places an important emphasis on students who are first generation college students within their family. New freshman and transfer students, as well as continuing College of Technology students, who are pursuing programs in business and technology, health sciences, and education, can apply. A scholarship committee will select qualified students.

### Freshman

Students who have not previously enrolled in any college must have graduated high school with a minimum GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

### Currently Enrolled and Transfer Students

Currently enrolled students, and transfer students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The High Plains Memorial Scholarship is awarded on a yearly basis, and you must reapply annually. The award will be disbursed during fall and spring semester. Scholarship funds will be shown as credits on your bill and funds are designated for payment of tuition, fees, books and supplies first. You must enroll at MSU-Great Falls College of Technology for at least 9 credits and maintain a minimum of 2.5 GPA each semester.

## APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS:

***Each of the following items must be completed for an application to be considered:***

- Scholarship Application:** Complete the application form (on reverse side) in its entirety.
- Personal Statement:** Summarize why you chose your Major/Field of Study. Describe obstacles overcome, short-term goals, long-term goals, financial need, recent honors or awards, and any other information you believe is relevant to the selection committee. (Please type and limit to one page).
- One Letter of Recommendation:** Submit one letter from an instructor or from a personal reference, such as an employer, pastor, supervisor, etc. The letter must include the name, address, and telephone number of person making recommendation.
- Current Unofficial Transcripts:** New freshmen must submit a current high school transcript. Transfer students must submit the most recent college transcript. Continuing students who have completed at least one term do not need to submit transcripts.
- Completed FAFSA Application:** To be considered for this scholarship you must first complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2011-2012 academic year by the deadline noted below. You can fulfill this requirement by applying online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Applicants must designate our school to receive this information; the school code is 009314.

**Deadline:** The application and all documents must be received by **February 18, 2011**. Please mail or submit to:

Financial Aid Office  
MSU-GF College of Technology  
2100 16<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Great Falls, MT 59405

The Selection Committee has the right to reject any late or incomplete applications.

Direct questions to Financial Aid Office at (406) 771-4334 or [finaid@msugf.edu](mailto:finaid@msugf.edu)



# High Plains Memorial Scholarship Application

For academic year 11-12, I will be a:  New Freshman  New Transfer  Continuing Student

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Intended Major/Program of Study \_\_\_\_\_

**New Freshman:** Cumulative High School GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

**New Transfer:** Cumulative GPA at last college: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Credits Earned \_\_\_\_\_

College Name \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuing Students:** Program \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

High School Graduated From \_\_\_\_\_ US Citizen  Yes  No

State of Legal Residence \_\_\_\_\_ If Montana, county \_\_\_\_\_

Dependents  Yes  No If yes, list ages \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked/week \_\_\_\_\_

- I have completed an application for financial aid (FAFSA) for the 2011-2012 Year  Yes  No

- I will complete an application for financial aid (FAFSA) for the 2011-2012 Year  Yes  No

- I am the first generation in my family to attend a post-secondary institution  Yes  No

Federal law requires MSU-Great Falls College of Technology to obtain written permission from the awardee for the release of academic and biographical information to the scholarship donor and/or news media. By signing below, I agree that relevant information may be released. Furthermore, by signing below, I confirm the accuracy of the enclosed information and understand that any false or misleading statements may invalidate my application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_