Dr. J. William Jones was born August 10, 1915 in Centerville, Iowa. After graduating from high school in Phoenix, Arizona, J. William continued his education at Pasadena Nazarene College where he received a bachelor's degree in theology. He earned a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Oregon and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston University.

During these same years J. William was already active in ministry, founding the Church of the Nazarene in both Newport and Springfield, Oregon, and pastoring churches in Portland and in Albany, Oregon and in Waltham, Massachusetts.

After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Jones became a professor of theology and philosophy at Northwest Nazarene College in 1964, teaching there until 1975. His heart and love for NNC/NNU continued throughout his lifetime. After retiring in 1980, Dr. Jones lived in Lake George, New York until his death in 1999. During his retirement Dr. Jones continued to author numerous articles in philosophy and books on theology.

Dr. Jones' son and daughter-in-law, Burke and Doenie Jones of Boise, Idaho, both attended NNC and have maintained a strong commitment to Northwest Nazarene University and its mission. They have established this scholarship to honor the life and memory of Dr. J. William Jones.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion.
2. Recipients are to be students majoring in philosophy or religion and having a minimum GPA of 3.0;
3. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship;
4. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years;
5. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.