Dorame Blackburn was born in Commerce, Oklahoma. She attended Central College in McPherson, Kansas and Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois. Early in her teaching career, she met Lowell Shepard in Plainville, Kansas. They were married in 1939 in Emmett, Idaho. They later moved to Medford, Oregon where she taught school for 34 years.

Long-time members of the Medford First Church of the Nazarene, Dorame was actively involved in missionary and education programs. In addition to teaching Christian education training courses, she organized and catalogued the church library which has been named in her honor. In addition, she served as Christian Education Director for the Oregon Pacific District and also conducted education workshops at the General Assembly. She traveled extensively visiting Nazarene mission fields.

The Shepards have a daughter, Marilyn Lee (Shepard) Silvia, who graduated from Northwest Nazarene College with a teaching degree in 1965. She later became an attorney after receiving her law degree from Rutgers in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Criteria for the Award

1. The purpose of this scholarship is for the recruitment and retention of students who show potential for academic success and future service.
2. Preference shall be given to students whose parents are missionaries.
3. Nominations may be made to the Director of Financial Aid who will submit recommendations to the Scholarship Committee.
4. Students from all majors may be considered for awards.
5. Students must be full-time, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and meet other general scholarship requirements.