Ernie Thompson was born in Monte Vista, Colorado where his father hauled logs out of the mountains to build the original Monte Vista Church of the Nazarene. He grew up in Vancouver, Washington and graduated from Northwest Nazarene College in 1960, then did post graduate work at Eastern Oregon University and the University of Idaho. It was on the NNC campus that Ernie met his wife Ginny (Virginia Volk) where she attended College High School.

Ernie joined the faculty of Northwest Nazarene College after fourteen years with the Boise School District where he coached, taught junior high school science and math, and served as a high school counselor and junior high school assistant principal and principal. Ernie was well known throughout Boise valley schools after years of professional contacts and basketball officiating, thereby enhancing his work with NNC field-based programs.

Since 1973, Ernie has participated in and coordinated lay witness missions in local churches over much of the western United States.

All three Thompson children attended NNC, and like dad, participated in intercollegiate athletics. Daughter Maaike followed mom and dad into education and is currently a school administrator in Boise, Idaho.

This scholarship was established at the time of Ernie Thompson’s retirement after twenty-four years of continuous service as Director of Student Teaching and Teacher Placement in the Education Department at Northwest Nazarene College.

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. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship;
3. Recipients are to be deserving student teachers participating in Professional Experience;
4. Nominations for this award are to be made by the Department of Teacher Education in consultation with the Office of Financial Aid.