Steve Walden was born and raised on a farm in central Illinois. He arrived at Northwest Nazarene College (University) in January 1964 after attending Olivet Nazarene University for two years. It was at NNC that Steve met Chelsee Nunn from Oak Harbor, Washington, who had transferred to NNC from the University of Washington. Steve and Chelsee were married in April 1965, and Steve graduated from NNC in 1966. He and Chelsee then moved to Oak Harbor where Steve went to work for a small savings bank. For a number of years Chelsee managed a construction company.

Steve worked for Interwest Bank for 34 years, seeing it grow to become a multi-billion dollar bank. He served as Interwest Bank President/CEO from 1990—2000 and currently is Chairman of the Board.

Both Steve and Chelsee have served in various capacities in the Oak Harbor Church of the Nazarene. Steve is a member of the District Advisory Board, the NNU Board of Regents, and the NNU Foundation Board of Directors.

The Waldens have three daughters and ten grandchildren. They enjoy living on Whidbey Island and raising horses on their farm.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be persons of Christian commitment and worthy character;
2. Recipients must be from the Washington Pacific District and have a high school GPA of no less than 2.5;
3. Recipients are to be full-time students with a major in business;
4. Recipients must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0;
5. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years;
6. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.