The John & Myrna Dean Scholarship

John H. Dean, the youngest of three children, was born August 25, 1901, in Sloan, Iowa. He moved to Gordon, Nebraska, and then to Spokane, Washington, where he completed his high school education. After moving to Nampa, Idaho, with his parents, he chose to attend Northwest Nazarene College.

Myrna M. (Waller) Dean, the youngest of two girls, was born February 19, 1901 in Wichita, Kansas. She grew up in Wichita and graduated from Friends University Academy where she excelled in athletics. She came west on the train to Seattle to live with her sister whose husband pastored the Seattle First Church of the Nazarene. There she was first exposed to the Nazarene Church and soon after chose to attend Northwest Nazarene College.

During their time at NNC, John and Myrna met and developed a relationship that lasted nearly their entire college careers. Both graduated in 1925: John with an English degree, after serving as class president his junior year and student body president his senior year, and Myrna with a degree in Elementary Education. They were married August 26, 1927, and from their 65 years of marriage 7 children, 5 sons and 2 daughters, were produced.

After they married, John & Myrna first taught in a log cabin on a Montana Indian Reservation and later at the Owyhee Indian Reservation on the Idaho/Oregon border and several other locations in the Treasure Valley. In 1939 they moved to Southern California where John worked for the state employment service and farmed. They returned to Nampa in 1947 and bought the Hasbrook House on 12th Avenue, where they lived for 10 years while John sold real estate and taught English at Bruneau and Myrna taught at Roosevelt Elementary School. In 1957 they moved to Medford, Oregon, where John taught math and Myrna taught 2nd grade until their retirement in 1967. They returned to Nampa in 1990 where they lived until John passed away in 1993 and Myrna in 1995.

During their life together John and Myrna were consistently involved in the Nazarene Church. While John served on the board in nearly every church he attended, Myrna was very involved in Missions and any area of need, and they both taught Sunday School. They were generous supporters of the Church and NNC. Their lives were devoted to God and His will in their lives. Five of their seven children attended NNC, and six have college degrees, while five also have advanced degrees. Education was very important to them, as was evidenced by their chosen fields in life and their passion for their children and grandchildren.

This scholarship has been established and provided by friends and family of John and Myrna Dean as a way of passing along their passion for education by helping further the education of NNU students.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements, show potential for academic success and degree completion, and are education majors.

2. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.

3. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years.

4. Nominations for this award are to be made by the Department of Education in consultation with the Office of Financial Aid.

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