Rex L. Eckert was born in Cloud County, Kansas, where farming was a way of life. The Wesleyan Methodist Church provided his Christian education. He later attended Miltonvale Wesleyan College, Academy Department, during his junior and senior years where he met his future wife, Esther. They were married in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1952.

Rex served a tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at various locations. He worked with Civil Service before moving to a farm in Kansas where they lived for seven years. In 1964 Rex and Esther moved to Anchorage, Alaska to help organize and work in a Wesleyan Methodist Church as lay people. Rex worked for Shell Oil Company for 13 years, then went to work for Enstar Natural Gas Company as a Gas Controller for 15 years. He retired in 1993.

Esther H. Kroeker was born in Goessel, Kansas, the daughter of a Mennonite farmer. During her early years her parents began attending the Wesleyan Methodist Church. She graduated from the Academy Department of Miltonvale Wesleyan College. She worked with Civil Service during the time Rex was in the Air Force, then decided to become a mother and housewife, rather than to follow a career.

They had two sons Ken and Steve. Ken attended NNC for two years and received a degree in architecture from Washington State University. He is working in that field in Seattle, Washington. Steve received an Electrical Engineering degree from Rose Hullman Institute of Technology and a Master’s degree from UCLA. He currently has his own computer business in Belmont, California.

Criteria for the Award

1. Earnings from the Rex and Esther Eckert Scholarship Fund will be used to provide assistance to deserving students with financial need.

2. Recipients are to be persons of Christian commitment and worthy character.

3. First preference in awarding shall be given to the lineal descendants of Rex and Esther Eckert. Second preference in awarding shall be given to students from the state of Alaska. If Alaska students do not qualify, students from other states shall be considered.

4. Nominations for this award are to be made by the Office of Financial Aid.

5. The general requirement for full-time student status and a 2.5 minimum GPA applies.