A.B. Ellis was born in Washington and grew up in children's homes in the Seattle area. As a youth, he was invited to the Seattle First Church of the Nazarene where he became a Christian. In 1938 he arrived on the campus of Northwest Nazarene College with the goal of becoming a school teacher. He was a member of the NNC debate team and became recognized as an excellent debater.

Marjorie Draper was born in Jamestown, North Dakota. While a student at NNC she met A.B. and they were married August 8, 1940. They had four children; Dennis, Kathleen, Marquita and Loren, all of whom attended NNC.

A.B. taught school in Emmett, Idaho for a time and was introduced to the painting business by a man who suggested that it was more profitable than teaching. He became a painting contractor and in 1947 opened his first paint store, Nampa Paint and Glass. The company has expanded to eight stores plus the corporate headquarters and a paint factory, Ponderosa Paint Manufacturing, Inc., located in Boise, Idaho.

The Ellis' have been long-time active members of Nampa First Church of the Nazarene. A.B. is past president of the Nampa Rotary Club; has served on the Governor's Committee on hiring the handicapped; and is past president of the National Decorating Products Association. He has been selected as a Distinguished Citizen by the Idaho Statesman and has been a featured speaker at Idaho Leadership Seminars sponsored by the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation and Boise State University Business Week. He is a recipient of the Northwest Nazarene College Eugene Emerson Award and served as chairman of the NNC 1985-86 Economic Task Force.

Criteria for awarding of scholarship

1. Awards are to be made to students who have financial need and who demonstrate potential for academic success.

2. Nominations are to be made by the Financial Aid Office for approval by the Scholarship Committee.

3. Students must be full-time, have a minimum 2.0 GPA, and meet other general scholarship requirements.