



Wilkerson Teacher Education Scholarship

Education has always been important to the Wilkerson family. Larry Wilkerson was a highly respected teacher, coach, then administrator in USD 323, even before this unified district was established. He began at St. George in 1965 as a teacher/coach. He continued there as K-12 principal beginning in 1966, helping to guide them through the early stages of melding with Flush and Westmoreland schools into Unified School District 323. Following seven years at St. George and a hiatus of two years helping with a family business in Missouri, he returned to USD 323 in 1975 as Principal of Westmoreland High School. From 1987 until retirement in 1995, he served as Principal of Westmoreland Elementary School. For a short time in 1991 he also served as acting superintendent, overseeing the final stages of building the Rock Creek Junior Senior High School. The transfer of the grade school from its old home in the building now serving as Pottawatomie County offices to its present site at the former high school building in 1992 was also completed on his watch.

Larry's wife, Nola, also served in various roles in the district schools during Larry's tenure—sometimes as substitute teacher, but also in temporary and full-time teaching positions in both St. George and Westmoreland high schools. She became the first ever elementary counselor for the district in 1987. The Wilkerson children—Barry, Cheri, and Terry attended Westmoreland Grade School and graduated from Westmoreland High School.

The Basic Requirements for receiving assistance from the Wilkerson Teacher Education Scholarship are:

1. Affiliation with USD 323 Rock Creek Schools, i.e. has graduated from, is employed by, or has close affiliation with Rock Creek Schools, such as a parent, mentor of students, volunteer, or a community member who has provided a service to the schools.
2. Financial need;
3. Character and abilities commensurate with successful teaching. The applicant must submit a referral from a district principal or counselor and may submit other references regarding character, abilities, and commitment.
4. Enrollment in a program specifically for training teachers at an institution whose accreditation is recognized by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). For-profit institutions are excluded.
5. Completion of at least one year of education in a college or university accredited as described above. Adjustment may be considered to allow for special circumstances of a non-traditional applicant)
6. Seeking a Bachelor or Masters' degree in education or certification in an additional educational specialty (renewal of an existing certification and more advanced degrees such as Ph.D. or Ed.D are excluded).

Contact the Caring Community Foundation Director, Susie Kufahl, at skufahl@ccfks.org for more information.