

# KNEA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Kansas National Education Association is pleased to award six (6) scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year. Go to [www.knea.org/grants-and-scholarships](http://www.knea.org/grants-and-scholarships) for more details and the application.

## • KNEA SHERRI YOURDON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Students, parents and teachers lost a great friend, educator and passionate advocate when KNEA Vice President Sherri Yourdon passed away in August 2009 after battling cancer. She was a voice and an activist for children and parents, especially single parents. On leave from her position as counselor at Reno Valley Middle School in Nickerson, Yourdon served as KNEA vice president since being elected in 2006. Prior to that, she served as KNEA's secretary-treasurer. She advocated for after-school programs through the Kansas Enrichment Network and enhanced KNEA's working relationships with partners like Safe Kids and the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center. A long-time political activist, Yourdon ran for the Kansas House of Representative in the 1990s. She became an active KKNEA member soon after she began teaching in 1971 in El Dorado, serving as local president, chief negotiator and as a delegate to state and national assemblies. Yourdon also taught at Hutchinson Community College and Hutchinson Correctional Facility, or HCF. She was also a part-time counselor for court services and the juvenile detention center. \*PLEASE NOTE\* The KNEA Sherri Yourdon Memorial Scholarship is a \$1,000 award designed for a KNEA member who is a single mother pursuing an advanced degree. Preference will be given to candidates pursuing degrees in education or related fields. The award will be mailed directly to the registrar's office prior to enrollment.

## • BRUCE AND DIANA GOEDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Bruce Goeden served KNEA from 1974 to 2008 in various capacities, including the last 24 years as executive director. He guided the association through many challenges and transformations, including developing a culture of collaboration, providing an emphasis on professional advocacy and implementing a strategic planning process. Diana Goeden, his wife, served KNEA for 27 years as the assistant to the executive director. The KNEA Bruce and Diane Goeden Scholarship was established in November 2010 and is a \$1,000 award for a KNEA member to use during the semester of his/her student teaching (or equivalent). Applicants must agree that to receive this award, they must be a continuing member of Kansas NEA. The award will be mailed directly to the registrar's office prior to enrollment.

## • RODNEY VANZANDT SCHOLARSHIP

Rodney VanZandt served KNEA as associate executive director for more than 20 years. He guided the association through many challenges and was an advocate for professional educators. The Rodney VanZandt Scholarship was established in September 1998 in memory of his work at KNEA. This scholarship is a \$400 award available for a **nontraditional** KNEA Aspiring Educator member. The award will be mailed directly to the registrar's office prior to enrollment.

## • C.O. WRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Charles Omega Wright served the Kansas State Teachers Association (KSTA) as executive director for three decades. He wrote the definitive history of the KSTA on its' 100th anniversary in 1963. Under C.O.'s leadership, the association became a force in Kansas education. Philosopher, fighter, builder, friend, writer, politician, humanitarian, and certainly educator, are among the many words used to describe this very influential Kansas leader. The C.O. Wright Scholarship was established in August 1982 to commemorate his KSTA work. The \$250 award is designated for a KNEA Aspiring Educator member. To be eligible, applicants must agree to be a continuing KNEA member. The award will be mailed directly to the college registrar's office prior to enrollment.

## • GEORGE FREY SCHOLARSHIP

George Frey served KNEA as the assistant secretary for communications starting in 1961. He guided the association through budget development and had an abiding interest in the future of the education profession. The George Frey Scholarship was established in November 1981 and is a \$200 award for an aspiring educator member. The award will be mailed directly to the college registrar's office prior to enrollment.

• **CONNIE SHEA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Connie Shea devoted her career as an educator to help students who faced challenges. She started her teaching career in Burrton, Kansas, before taking time off to start a family. Connie finished her career at Nickerson High School where she worked tirelessly to help at-risk students continue their path to graduation. Connie’s work positively impacted the lives of many students in Reno County. Her family chose to recognize her accomplishments by establishing a \$200 scholarship in her memory. This scholarship will help a Kansas NEA Aspiring Educator who faced or faces challenges in his or her effort to obtain a degree in education and join the teaching profession. The award will be mailed directly to the college registrar’s office prior to enrollment.

**Complete the form below and attach the requested documents.**

**Name of Candidate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of College/University attending in 2024-2025** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree Sought** \_\_\_\_\_ **Major or Emphasis** \_\_\_\_\_

**KNEA Member Since (year)** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE RODNEY VANZANDT SCHOLARSHIP, BRIEFLY EXPLAIN HOW YOU FIT THE NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT DESCRIPTION:**

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**Attach the following to this application:**

- A list of your employment history, KNEA activities, volunteer activities, honors and/or interests that reflect your commitment to education.
- A brief essay (no more than 500 words) explaining why you chose education as a profession, how this award would assist you, and why you are a strong candidate.
- Two letters of recommendation (no more than one page each); one from a professor of education in the college or university and one from another person of the candidate’s choosing.

**AGREEMENT: To receive this award for the 2024-2025 school year, I understand that I must maintain my membership in the KNEA during the 2024-2025 school year. The award is intended to be applied toward tuition and fees and will be mailed directly to the Registrar’s Office.**

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2024.

Submit to: Kansas NEA

Or Email to: [Kimberly.Howard@knea.org](mailto:Kimberly.Howard@knea.org)

Attention: Office of the President

715 S.W. 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612

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