



"Enhancing educational opportunities for students"

Eric Tennis Memorial Scholarship Application

Submit to the WHS Student Services Office by Feb. 22

The Eric Tennis Memorial Scholarships were established in Eric's memory by his family and friends after his passing in November 2008.

Eric was 30 years young at the time of his death. He had been confined to a wheel chair his entire life and he often said. "You can have a disability without being disabled." He was a dedicated Watertown Arrows fan, a mentor for third grade students at Roosevelt, and a loyal and enthusiastic team member at County Fair Grocery Store, where he once won a statewide award for customer service. When asked by his friend Rick Melmer, former Watertown Superintendent of Schools and former Secretary of the Department of Education for the State of South Dakota, about the tremendous source of his happiness, Eric said, "It's my choice. If I weren't happy, who would be my friend?"

Eric Tennis was a man with a giant attitude of good will for everyone he ever met, regardless of age, sex, ability, wealth or position. He brought the best attitude to everything he touched and did, and every challenge he encountered. When he died, he left behind more friends than any man in Watertown. The Eric Tennis Awards go to a boy and a girl who each demonstrate Eric's joyful spirit and attitude and who has endured challenges.

Two scholarships will be awarded yearly, one to a **graduating senior boy** and one to a **graduating senior girl**. Each

- Has a **very positive attitude**, a **joyful spirit**, and has **endured challenges**.
- Has a **2.8 or better GPA** (on a 4 point scale).
- Plans to **attend technical school, college or university** in any field.
- Is involved in family, community and/or extra-curricular student activities.

Each award is \$ 500, unless otherwise determined by the Arrow Education Foundation Board,

In order to be eligible, please include:

- The **Eric Tennis Memorial Scholarship application**.

- **Two letters of recommendation.** The letters should include a description of the candidate's character and attitude from your point of view, and your relationship with the student. Letters may be submitted by teachers, mentors, club or activity leaders or others who know you well. One letter must be from a current or past staff member of the Watertown School District.
- **A personal statement** that addresses your character, life lessons learned from challenges, and personal qualities that relate to this scholarship. Please share your goals and plans for the future. Examples of how the specific criteria apply would be appreciated.

Applications will be reviewed by a review committee and a committee of members of Eric's family and friends.

The Eric Tennis Memorial Scholarships will be awarded through the Arrow Education Foundation.

Arrow Education Foundation

PO Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201 (Located at Garfield School)
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