Joseph and Rosemary Bittorf
Industrial and Systems Engineering Scholarship

The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship support for full-time female undergraduate students seeking a degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Northern Illinois University.

The Award:
One scholarship valued at $1,000 for one academic year. Prior recipients are eligible to apply for additional awards in subsequent years.

Eligibility:
- Candidates must be a full-time student at the sophomore or junior level.
- Candidates must be a declared major in Industrial and Systems Engineering.
- Candidates must be in good standing with the university.
- Preference will be given to any student who has applied for and has received acceptance into the NIU Honors Program.
- Preference will be given to any student who is actively involved in a student organization that is in good standing with the college.

Requirements:
- Recipients must remain a declared major in Industrial and Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology for the academic year of the award.
- Recipients must remain in good standing with the university.

About the donors

Joseph L. Bittorf

Joseph L. Bittorf is a college instructor at Northern Illinois University in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. He teaches under-graduate and graduate courses in Industrial and Systems Engineering and Industrial Management. Prior to teaching at Northern Illinois University, he was Senior Vice President of Corporate Development for National Manufacturing, a privately held company founded in Sterling. National was a leading manufacturer of home and builders' hardware products with operations in Illinois, Canada and Mexico. Joe is a fourth generation descendant of the founders of National Manufacturing.

Joe is a graduate of Montana State with a BS in Industrial Engineering, and a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a MS in Industrial and Systems Engineering. He also attended the Executive Development Program at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Prior to working at National, Joe worked at Weyerhaeuser and Honeywell.

Joe resides in DeKalb, IL, and has three sons. He has served as a member of the Sterling Local Chamber Board, Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the Sterling Park District Commissioner, and the ETC Partnership Chair for Sauk Valley College and Whiteside Area Career Center.
Joe sponsors several scholarships, which benefit students at the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Joe believes that scholarship support of students is vital to their continued success.

Rosemary Gullikson Bittorf

Rosemary Gullikson Bittorf is Counsel at the global law firm, Dentons US LLP, where she was a partner prior to her retirement in 2013. Her practice focused on strategic and enterprise business process and information technology contracting, licensing, privacy and data security issues, and strategic alliances. She has advised clients, in a variety of industry sectors, on the development and implementation of strategic plans related to commercial transactions, and has managed all phases of client transactions. She chaired the Firm’s U.S. Outsourcing Practice Group and served as a member of the Firm’s Legal Development Committee.

Rosemary now teaches Patent and Copyright Law for Engineers at Northern Illinois University in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET). Rosemary also serves on the Board of Visitors of the Northern Illinois University College of Law, and is co-chair of the Board of Visitors’ University and Public Relations Committee.

Rosemary graduated summa cum laude from Northern Illinois University with a BS in Nursing, and earned her J.D., graduating cum laude, from Northwestern University College of Law.

Until 2008, Rosemary served as President of the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation, which she founded in 1995 with her late husband, Tim Gullikson and his twin brother, Tom, when Tim was diagnosed with brain cancer. Although Tim lost his battle in 1996, the Foundation raised about $7 million and funded support programs for brain tumor patients and their families. Rosemary is now a member of the Board of Directors of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Rosemary has a son and a daughter. She also sponsors several scholarships at the Northern Illinois University College of Education, and a scholarship at the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Rosemary believes that scholarship support of students is vital to their continued success.