The James C. Warner Memorial Scholarship

The purpose of this award is to provide support for needy students currently enrolled in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology at Northern Illinois University.

**The Award:**
One scholarship valued at $1,000 for one academic year. Preference is that the money be used for books but the award may be applied to other costs of education such as tuition, academic fees, and room/board.

**Eligibility:**
- Candidates must be a declared major in the College of Engineering & Engineering Technology.
- Preference is for students that are financially needy (address this in your personal statement).

**About the Donor:**

He received his Bachelor of Science in education, graduating with Scholastic Honors from Northern Illinois University in 1957. He received his master's in 1958 and doctorate in 1962 in education from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo. He began his tenure at Northern Illinois University in 1962 as an assistant professor and within seven years was a full professor in the Department of Industry and Technology.

In the mid-1960s, he became aware of an emerging technology in manufacturing that was called Numerical Control. This technology enabled machine tools to be controlled by an ordered sequence of numerical data. Realizing that this new technology would rapidly change the world of manufacturing, he initiated a plan to incorporate N/C into his classes in machine tool technology at NIU. He worked with the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago to educate himself in N/C and adjusted his classes in machine tool technology to incorporate both traditional and N/C processes. His vision of the future made his programs at NIU truly pioneering efforts to bring N/C into the academic world. His efforts in N/C were rapidly recognized nationwide and established NIU as the leader in N/C technology education.

He played a major role in the establishment of both the Numerical Control Society and Computer Aided Manufacturing International. As no other academic institution in the world was offering class work that included N/C, his early students were in great demand in industry. Many of his early students went into the aerospace and related industries that were leading the way in the change to N/C processes. He continued to build the program through the 1970s adding state of the art N/C machine tools and the APT part programming software that became the basis for his foundation classes and led to a formal N/C curriculum within the Dept. of Industry and Technology.

The importance of his program rapidly came to the attention of industry leaders in both the public and private sectors and he garnered the support of the Department of Defense and major corporations throughout the world. He traveled the globe lecturing on N/C technology and how to properly apply it. He further extended the influence of NIU in the N/C world by taking over the research and development of computer software to define and develop the most sophisticated sculptured surfaces used in the machining of complex piece parts used in manufacturing gas turbines and jet engines. In 1980, He became chairman of the Department of Industry and Technology and led the department until his retirement in 1989.
Under his leadership he continued to push for excellence in each of the disciplines within the I & T department. He recognized that the time was right for the University to consider the establishment of a School of Engineering. The NIU College of Engineering & Engineering Technology is the result of his determination and vision. It is a fitting tribute to his memory and the impact that he has had on many thousands of students as well as the respect that he commanded from industry leaders throughout the world. He was a singular individual who demanded the best from his students and himself. He expected and accepted nothing less. He absolutely loved to teach and often said that everyone should be so lucky as to get paid for doing what they loved! While his work at NIU required much of his time, he also had many other interests including traveling with his family, hunting and fishing (especially in Clam Lake, Wis.) and volunteering his time and talent at St. Mary's School and Church and the DeKalb Elks Club.

Once retired, his woodworking talents became quite apparent as he rebuilt the kitchen and sunroom at home, created toys and furniture for his grandchildren and furniture for his wife and daughters. An open garage door was all the neighbors needed to know that the "handyman was in!" He leaves behind his wife, Jean; daughters, Pamela Holmdal and her daughter, Alexis, and Dawn (Eric) Sundstrom and their children, Austin and Tessa.