

Scholarships: opportunities for donors and students

By Sarah Coomber



Delma L. Hartman

Memorial Scholarship, which honors Hartman, an Eastern graduate who, like Welch, returned to school to earn a teaching degree after a marriage and raising children. The scholarship pays tuition for the quarter its recipient spends student teaching.

"It just makes you feel good to know Delma's memory is living on in other people," said Hartman's sister, Marie Osterberg, of Badger Lake, Wash., who started the scholarship with memorials received when her sister died of cancer in 1987. Hartman's career included a stint in Jerome, Idaho, before she transferred to Willard Elementary in Spokane.

"She loved children, she loved teaching," Osterberg said, adding how the scholarship is set up to help students facing challenges similar to those her sister faced.

"We're an Eastern family," Osterberg added, explaining that she used to work part time for Eastern, her husband, Ray, graduated from Eastern and is retired from the University's computer center, and their children and grandchildren are Eastern students and graduates.

Welch said the scholarships she has received have pushed her to excel, and she maintains a 3.96 out of 4.0 grade-point average.

"Truly, truly I have appreciated every one," she said. "I truly have done my best in each class."

In addition to her studies, Welch manages Eastern's townhouse apartments, where she lives with three of her children, does substitute teaching for Cheney School District and helps in the classrooms at Reid Elementary School, where she did her student teaching.

"I just don't sleep very much," she said.

Thanks in large part to her scholarships, Welch has kept her loans to a minimum for her five years of schooling.

"I've really kept my focus to do my best," she said. "As a single mom, I know what beginning (teacher) pay is."

Welch received her B.A.E. with state endorsement in March and now is working on graduate studies in library, media and technology. However, earning that master's degree is secondary to finding a job, a goal she hopes to attain within the next few months.

"The light is here, at the end of the tunnel," she said.

Scholarships helped draw Brenda Welch to Eastern, and scholarships have helped keep her going.

"Every scholarship I get is someone saying, 'I believe in you. You can do this,'" said Welch, 38, a divorced mother of four. "I hope all the donors will continue."

Before embarking on her studies, Welch farmed at Royal City, Wash. A big believer in early childhood education, she was disheartened that the closest preschool was 35 miles away. So in addition to farming and raising her children, Welch began researching preschools and preschool curricula across the state. She started a preschool in her home for area children and soon had eight students and a three-year waiting list.

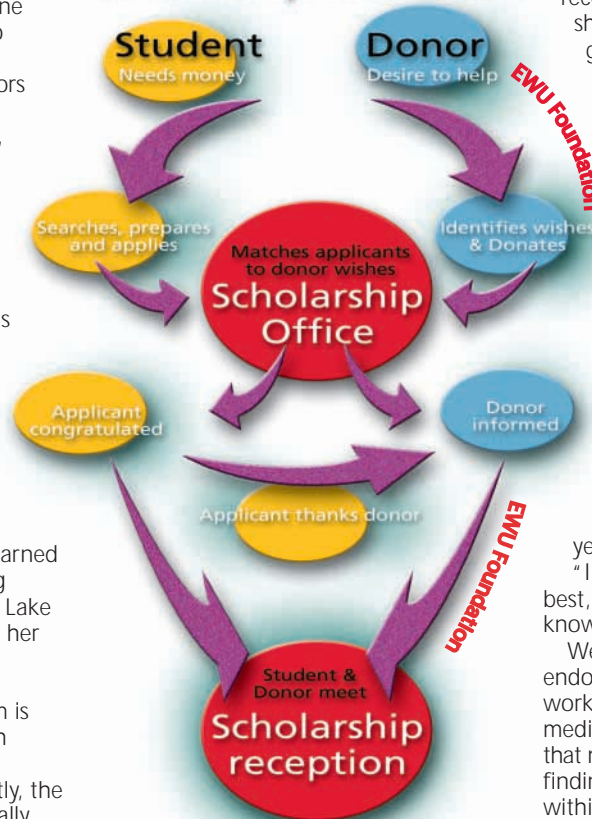
"People were signing their babies up," she recalled.

Welch knew, though, that she needed to go back to school. She earned an associate of arts degree from Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake and began seeking a place to finish her four-year degree.

"I applied at Wazzu, Central and Eastern, and the education program is what brought me here. I heard such good things," Welch said. "When I applied, Eastern offered me, honestly, the most (scholarship money), and it really drew me here."

Welch received the Transfer Honors Scholarship for two years plus many others, including the Delma L. Hartman

Scholarship Flow Chart



Contact Scholarship Office @ (509) 359-2314
 Contact EWU Foundation @ (509) 359-6252 or
www.ewu.edu/foundation