

Catherine and William Challas Scholarship

The Education Foundation of Mason City Public Schools has announced the donation of \$100,000 from Silicon Valley entrepreneur John Challas.

The grant comes from the Catherine and William Challas Scholarship Fund, a new educational fund created by Challas in honor of his parents.

Scholarships will be awarded annually to students from Mason City exhibiting high standards of hard work and perseverance, and focuses on more than grades and grade-point averages.

The donation serves to help students who lack academic resources or must balance school, home and family responsibilities.

The fund created criteria that for the first time will allow students with 2-2.7 grade-point averages to receive scholarships compared to the current eligibility standard of a 2.5 or higher.

The fund allows the scholarship to be applied to students attending North Iowa Area Community College majoring in general studies or vocational training.

“The Catherine and William Challas Scholarship Fund’s donation is unbelievable in today’s world of funding cuts and tuition increases,” said Dr. Jay Lala, a Mason City dentist who heads the Education Foundation of Mason City Public Schools.

“There is a big gap between what is available and what is needed, and with this grant we are able to award students who wouldn’t have a chance at a scholarship and help them realize their own potential.

“We believe it’s not how you start in life, but how you finish.”

Challas, a graduate of Mason City High School, said he was a typical student. He has since been successful in the real estate, hospitality and lodging business in California.

The fund was established to honor his parents, Catherine and William Challas, who were German and Greek immigrants who arrived in the U.S. with very little formal education but believed in the importance of education and hard work.

The first recipients of the new grant will be announced in the first week of May at the Senior Night Awards Banquet.

Contact John Challas to learn more about applying for the Catherine and William Challas Scholarship Fund, or how to contribute, at <mailto:JChallas1955@gmail.com>.

Read more: http://globegazette.com/news/local/education-foundation-of-mason-city-public-schools-secures-grant/article_d257571e-47b8-11e1-af16-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1nEcUW8Av