

Allen Lab Endowed Scholarship

Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies depending on investment income/loss (typically approximately \$3,000 total)

Offered: 1-4 per year with a combined award not to exceed total award amount for the year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 2010

Special Criteria: Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) student, preference may be given to students with ties to northeast Iowa and/or students employed as medical lab technicians in Allen's lab.

In 2010, there were less than 5,000 medical lab technicians graduating each year. However, 13,800 were needed to fill vacancies through 2012. Employees in Allen Hospital's labs teamed up to combat this shortage.

Employees at Allen Laboratory, United Medical Park and Prairie Medical Park used their innovation and dedication to fundraise for a scholarship specifically for students in Allen College's Medical Lab Science (MLS) program.

"We hope to encourage two-year medical lab technicians to return to school to pursue further education," said Julie Westin, MT(ASCP), Allen Laboratory tech. "We also hope it will serve as an incentive for new techs entering the program."

The scholarship, officially known as the Allen Lab Endowed Scholarship, will be awarded annually in increments of no less than \$500. The number of students who receive the scholarship, as well as the amounts awarded, can increase based on incoming gifts.

Medical lab scientists practice diagnostic medicine, performing tests and analyzing data to provide acute laboratory results to confirm a diagnosis or monitor a treatment plan.

"Lab tests are used in 75 percent of medical decisions," said Wendy Bienemann MT(ASCP), Allen Laboratory lab tech, "so it's important to recruit young people and provide a good education program, which will produce quality lab staff."

The scholarship was started as part of Allen's Promises to Keep campaign, which raised \$1.5 million for the College endowment to assist students with scholarships each year.