

# Adele Whitenack Davis Scholarship



**Type:** Endowed

**Amount:** Varies depending on investment income/loss (approximately \$8,000)

**# Offered:** One per year

**Deadline:** Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

**Established:** 1991

**Special Criteria:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student, finalists will be interviewed by the Allen College President.

Adele Whitenack Davis was born in northern New Jersey. She attended Rutherford High School and Hunter College in nearby New York City. During World War II, she was a computer programmer in New York and Los Angeles.

In 1946, she married T. Wayne Davis and moved to his native state of Iowa. They settled in Cedar Falls where Adele worked in the office of the Wheeler Motor Company before turning toward a home-based career.

While rearing her two daughters, Sherry and Susan, Adele was the leading participant in community service groups. The AMVETS was an important support center for returning servicemen and their wives, and Adele served as president of their Auxiliary. She was also treasurer of the PTA, a Brownie and Girl Scout leader and a member of a local hospital and Goodwill auxiliaries.

At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, she taught Sunday School, served on the altar guild and was a member of the vestry. She helped plan the present St. Luke's building. She holds the honor of being the first woman in Iowa to be elected Junior Warden of the Episcopal Church.

Adele was a long-time supporting member of the League of Women Voters, the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and Cedar Falls Arts Alive. And she is a former co-owner of University Book and Supply. Adele was a member of the Board of Trustees of the UNI Foundation. With her husband, she helped raise substantial funds for growth and development of the University of Northern Iowa.

In partnership with her husband, she bred and raced thoroughbred horses. Adele traveled widely to countries on six of the seven continents as a benefactor of the arts.

In 1989 Adele Whitenack Davis was suddenly weakened by heart failure. Doctors at Allen Memorial Hospital discovered that she had been living since birth with a serious heart condition. She underwent surgery to repair the defect. While giving due credit to her doctors, Adele remained grateful to, and inspired by, her nurses for their warm, confident, personal care and their high level of professionalism.

Adele acquired a greater appreciation for nursing during her stay at Allen. She admired the courage, fortitude and patience of those dedicated to the healing arts. This endowed scholarship was established because Adele felt there was a great and growing need for people to be dedicated to the nursing profession.

Adele and her husband are deceased.