

Olesen Family Endowed Scholarship



Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies depending on investment income/loss (approximately \$1,500)

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 1990

Special Criteria: BSN student

The Olesen Family Scholarship was established by Roger P. Olesen. Allen Memorial Hospital was a part of his family since the middle of the 1930's. Both of his parents were hospitalized at Allen at some time.

His father, J. Peter Olesen, was one of the original Allen Memorial Hospital Foundation Board members in 1958. Roger P. Olesen served as a board member of Allen Health Systems, Inc. starting in 1970 and served as chair of that board from 1982-1993.

He also served on the Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Advisory Committee and was a charter member of the Allen College of Nursing Board of Trustees. He served on the Allen College Board from 1989-2002 and held the chair position from 1989-1992. Roger served on the Memorial Foundation of Allen Hospital Board of Directors from 1982-1992. He also served on the People's Bank and Trust Board.

Jens Olesen and Sons Construction was founded by Roger's grandfather. Roger worked with his father in the family business and retired after 42 years in 1989. Roger graduated from the University of Iowa and his wife, Marcella, received her degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

In May 2012 Roger received an honorary degree, the Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) from Allen College for his distinguished career as a leader in the Cedar Valley business community, for his leadership on the Allen College Board of Trustees during its early history, for his distinguished leadership of the Allen Health System Board and for his philanthropy.

Roger and Marcell had three children: Anne, a lawyer; Jim, a geologist; and Jane, a school teacher. Roger passed away in 2015 and Marcella passed away in 2016.

Nursing and nursing education have been a priority of his family for many years.