

Joan Poe Memorial Scholarship

- Amount:** \$600
- # Offered:** One per year
- Deadline:** Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application
- Established:** 2002
- Special Criteria:** Student enrolled at Allen College pursuing a healthcare degree. The scholarship may not be re-awarded more than two times for a maximum of three years.

How do you describe Joan Poe? Trailblazer. Tireless volunteer. Community advocate. Faithful friend and staunch supporter of Allen Health System.

Joan never charted her course to career success; the untimely death of her husband in 1971 forced her into the workplace. She had six children under the age of 18 to support, so Joan stepped into the family business at a time when there were few female role models in the business world. As president of Standard Distributing Company and Crystal Distribution Services, Joan earned the respect of the male-dominated beverage industry. She became a board member for the National Wholesalers of America, served as president of Iowa Beer Wholesalers Association, and received awards from several breweries for her leadership and achievement.

Joan began her service on the board of Allen Foundation in 1983 and served as chair from 1986-2001. She joined the board of Allen Health System and Allen Hospital in 1988. She helped raise funds for Gerard Hall and Barrett Forum on the Allen College campus and presided at the groundbreaking and ribbon cutting of both facilities. She played a key role in developing the partnership between Allen and Iowa Health System and assisted in the building of a dream – United Medical Park.

Joan also passionately supported the University of Northern Iowa and contributed her time and talents as a board member of many other local and state organizations. Joan's legacy of community contributions endures as we keep her memory close in our hearts. She passed away at Allen Hospital on September 12, 2001, at the age of 69.

In recognition of the dedication and support Joan Poe displayed for nursing and health sciences education at Allen College, the board members of Allen Health System established this scholarship in her honor. Her family matched the contribution and memorial funds were added to provide further funding for the endowment.

She always inspired young people to succeed and took pride in watching nursing and radiography students complete their education. In so doing, she instituted the Allen scholarship banquet and as mistress of ceremonies watched scholarships grow from awarding \$200 on 1979 to more than \$83,000 in 2001.