

Vivian Chestnut Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies (approximately \$500 per award)

Offered: Two per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 2025

Special Criteria: Recipient must be employed in the nursing field at UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital in Waterloo and must be further his/her nursing education at Allen College.

The Vivian Chestnut Memorial Scholarship was established by Myrna Culbertson to honor the life and legacy of her sister, Vivian Chestnut—a devoted nurse, educator and mentor.

Myrna graduated from Wartburg College in 1965 and began her career as a high school English teacher, serving 34 years at James B. Conant High School in Illinois and Charles City Community High School in Iowa. She later directed the Wartburg College Artist Series from 2002-2013.

Vivian's interest in nursing began in high school while caring for her grandmother, and she pursued that calling by graduating from the Allen School of Nursing in 1971 and earning her BSN from the University of Dubuque.

Her nursing career spanned more than four decades, including roles at La Crosse Lutheran Hospital and UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital, where she served for 39 years before retiring in 2011. Vivian held positions as a staff nurse in urology, head nurse in orthopedics, house supervisor on the evening shift and ultimately night house supervisor. She was deeply respected for her calm leadership, integrity and mentorship—qualities that earned her admiration from colleagues and countless accolades after her passing.

Vivian dearly loved being a nurse. Her connection to Allen College and the broader nursing community was reflected in her support of students and colleagues alike. This scholarship fulfills her wish to support Allen College students and reflects Myrna's own passion for education. It is intended to help nursing students begin lifelong careers of service and excellence in healthcare.

Allen College is deeply grateful to Myrna Culbertson for honoring Vivian's legacy and for her commitment to helping future nurses succeed.

