

Velma Knudsen Wessel Annual Scholarship

Type: Annual

Amount: Determined yearly by donor (typically \$1,000-\$2,000)

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 2026

Special Criteria: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Student
with a minimum GPA of 3.0



Velma Knudsen grew up in Dike, Iowa and graduated from the Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1954. She was the fourth in her family to do so, following her sisters Eunice, Erma and Valera. Velma married Duane Wessel of New Hartford in 1955, and together they raised three children.

Velma dedicated 41 years to nursing at Allen Hospital, serving many of those years as the night supervisor and retiring in 1995. She deeply valued the opportunity to work alongside the physicians and nurses who shaped her professional life. Velma and Duane lived and worked on their family farm until 2017, later moving to the Western Home in Cedar Falls; Duane passed away in 2022.

A proud Allen graduate and lifelong nurse, Velma encouraged her children to earn bachelor's degrees and inspired her daughters to pursue higher education in nursing, both earning BSN degrees—one continuing on to become a Nurse Practitioner. After long and fulfilling careers, both daughters are now retired.

Velma long hoped to create a scholarship as a way to give back to the profession she loved. She is proud to support Allen College nursing students and help future nurses achieve their educational goals. Her generosity reflects her enduring commitment to nursing and her gratitude for the opportunities her education provided.