

Colwell Family Endowed Scholarship

Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies depending on investment income/loss (approximately \$3,000)

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 2005

Special Criteria: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or Master of Science (MSN) student, minimum GPA of 3.0, enrolled full-time or part-time (minimum 9 credit hours/semester)

When Patrick Colwell graduated from Cedar Falls High School in the mid-1970s, he considered two career paths: technology and nursing. Since there were few male nurses in the health care industry at that time, Colwell was nudged into the technology field.

Pat never lost his passion for helping people. So, he decided in his mid-40s to resign his job as a systems analyst for Deere & Company to enroll at Allen College. Though he left a well-paying job, his decision to enter the nursing field paid off in two ways.

His decision proved meaningful when his father, Bill, a long-time area automobile dealer, was stricken with lung cancer. Pat used the nursing knowledge he gained at Allen College to provide comfort and care to his father and family during that difficult time. Shortly after Bill died in 2001, Pat earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Allen College and began working at Allen Hospital living his dream of being a nurse. Pat's wife, Marty, worked many years in the administration office at Allen Hospital.

Bill and Marcia Colwell grew up in Illinois and moved to Cedar Falls in 1967 and raised three sons: Bill Jr., Michael and Pat. In addition to his auto business, Bill also raised elk and trumpeter swans.

Marcia established this scholarship to assist other nursing students who share Pat and Marty's passion for the profession and who share their dedication to offer compassionate AllenCare to patients and families in times of needs.

Marcia passed away in November 2025.