

Virginia Henniges McBride Scholarship



Type: Endowed

Amount: Varies. Could cover most or all of the tuition, fees and books after free aid is applied.

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 1990

Special Criteria: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student with caring approach to patient care. Finalists will be interviewed by the Allen College President.

Virginia “Ginny” Henniges McBride was born and raised on a farm near Maynard, Iowa. During her high school years, she was actively involved in girls’ athletics and played on the basketball team that went to the state tournament four consecutive years. Ginny was proud to be a starter all four years on the team that won two titles and was runner-up the other two years. In 1965, Virginia Henniges McBride was elected to the Iowa Basketball Hall of Fame.

Ever since Ginny was a little girl, she wanted to be a nurse because of the great feelings you experience when reaching out and helping someone. Ginny graduated from Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1962 and married Michael McBride from Oelwein, Iowa. Ginny’s first job was at the University Hospital in Iowa City while her husband, Mike, attended graduate school. In 1963 they moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she worked in a doctor’s office until their first daughter was born in 1964, when she became a full-time mother and wife. Their second daughter was born in 1968.

Ginny spent many years volunteering as a nurse at various schools, hospitals, hospices, and at an oncology clinic in the Milwaukee area. She also volunteered for Interfaith, helping older people by driving them to doctors’ appointments, doing shopping for them, or just visiting with them. She and her husband tutored at the Laubach Literacy Center once a week.

Ginny and Mike McBride were the first major contributors to the Gerard Hall fundraising campaign in 1991. McBride Auditorium inside Gerard Hall was named in their honor. They continued their support of additional Allen College projects, including making a major contribution to the Winter Hall fundraising campaign. McBride Classroom inside Winter Hall was named in their honor.

The McBride’s have always felt that by caring for and sharing with others, they have made their lives more meaningful. By setting up this scholarship endowment fund, Ginny and Mike feel they are allowing someone else’s dreams to come true. They have been very blessed and are thankful that they are able to establish this endowment. By helping one individual, they are actually affecting the lives of many other people. Ginny passed away in October 2023.



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