



Curtis Marvin Hohn

*This scholarship is given in honor of the life and work of Curtis M. Hohn.
South Dakota state water policy leader, public service, and community activist*

Curt Hohn was one of a family of 12 children raised on a farm near Plankinton, SD, and a 1972 graduate of Northern State College. He served on the staff of U.S. Senator George McGovern from 1972-74, and executive director of United Family Farmers from 1975-76. As manager of the Oahe Subdistrict from 1977-1982, Curt played a leading role in the review of the Oahe Irrigation Project and legislative settlement for alternate water projects. Curt led the negotiations for the local Oahe Sub District with Congress and US Department of Interior in the trade of WEB for Oahe which resulted in a transformative change in state and federal water policy for South Dakota.

As manager of the WEB Project from 1983-1987, Curt coordinated legislative authorization, funding and construction of the \$100 million WEB Rural Water Project, the first major pipeline project to use Missouri River water in South Dakota. Curt's legacy as "*the young defector*" is chronicled in *Uphill Against Water (the Great Dakota Water War)* by author Peter Carrels. Oahe's story examined the conflict between the power of government and ordinary citizens. Hohn helped marshal "*a coalition of farmers and environmentalists attempting to protect the land they lived on, farmed and loved.*" (Ed Marston, *High Country News*, 1999).

Curt was a candidate for the United States Congress in 2000. Although not elected Curt continued to serve South Dakota by seeking resolutions to issues that impacted the public good. During his last years, Curt led citizen intervention in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission hearings regarding the Trans-Canada Crude Oil Pipeline.

Curt was an avid reader of history. His lifetime commitment of political courage and noble public service are reflected in the words of Robert F. Kennedy a man Curt deeply admired & often quoted—

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

Curtis Marvin Hohn Scholarship

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of a South Dakota High School attending a public or private college, university, or technical school in South Dakota and pursuing studies in history, political science, or water resources related studies.

Applicants for the Curtis Marvin Hohn Legacy Scholarship will reflect the values that embodied Curt Hohn's life. These characteristics may include, but not limited to:

- Personal integrity, individual character/courage
- Leadership in school/community/state
- Demonstrated involvement in civic affairs school, community, or state
- Participation in organizations that shape school/community/state/nation
- Individual leadership to reform policies that benefit the public good of school/community/state
- Demonstrated work ethic in school/community/state
- Demonstrated interest in national/global issues that impact public good
- Demonstrated interest in humanitarian issues

Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Curtis Marvin Hohn Scholarship Committee. Any committee member related to the applicant recuses himself/herself of selection.

Scholarship payment will be made to College, University or Technical School upon registration.

Scholarship Application

Applications must be completed and returned on or before April 6th each year to:

Curtis Marvin Hohn Scholarship Committee
c/o Paul Fischbach
38814 – 148th Street
Mansfield, SD 57460

Students Name in full: _____

Address: _____

Graduate of _____ High School

Current GPA: _____ ACT score: _____

Name of South Dakota College, University, or Technical School you plan to attend:

Address: _____

Intended Course of Study: _____

Each applicant is requested to provide the following information: *(Insert additional sheets as needed)*

- 1). Describe your extra-curricular High School Activities and your leadership or honors in those activities.

- 2). Describe your community service activities other than school that you have participated in and your role in those activities.

- 3). Write a short essay describing your interests and career goals; how you plan to reach those goals, and your personal values and experiences that support your efforts.

Attach a copy of your high school transcript and 2 letters of reference (teachers employers, etc.). References must be persons not related to you.

Application check list:

Application complete

Copy of high school transcript

Letters of reference