

Celemna, Roy, and Richard S. Holcomb Memorial Scholarship



My parents, Roy and Celemna Holcomb, espoused and instilled in me from an early age the value of education, both formal and ongoing through lifelong learning. In our home there was always importance placed on bettering oneself; as well as, giving back to the community that had helped you.

My family has been in Massachusetts since the arrival of the Mayflower. My parents grew up in Russell and attended local schools in Russell and Westfield. Both were raised with the strong Puritan Ethic of self reliance, hard work, and responsibility for one's actions and choices. After their marriage they lived in Granville where I was born. Then, we moved to Springfield where my father was employed as a Stationary Engineer for Swift & Co. I completed all my K-12 education in the Springfield Public School System.

My education continued at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where I majored in Mechanical Engineering. Following my graduation, I

began working for Ford Motor Company as a Powertrain Development Engineer in Dearborn, MI. My career with Ford allowed me a measure of success, and upon retirement my last position was Resident Engineering Director for Ford Motor Company at Kia Motors in Seoul, Korea. Through my employment, I had the opportunity to travel the world, and to live and work for extended periods of time in Japan and Korea; fifteen years total. I was able to enjoy different cultures, and to learn firsthand from them. This success would not have been possible without the education and values that were taught at home, in school, and from society at large. After 30+ years with Ford, I retired and returned to Westfield.

It is my firm belief that education is essential for the advancement and success of oneself in life.

However, with personal success comes a responsibility to acknowledge and repay those that helped you to achieve that success. It was through my education, my parents' faith in me, and the ethos they instilled in me that I have attained a measure of success. It is this reason that I am establishing this scholarship to honor both my parents, and to help students to better themselves through higher education. In this way, the students will gain the knowledge and education to become responsible, informed, and productive members of our society.

Written by: Richard S. Holcomb
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