

North Dakota Dollars for SCHOLARS®

A Program of Scholarship America®

2018-2019 Board of Directors



Scott Lingen, President, has worked in financial aid for 13 years. He is currently the director of financial aid at Bismarck State College (BSC) where he has been employed for three years. Prior to BSC, Scott worked at University of Mary and University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. In addition to serving on the North Dakota Dollars for Scholars board, Scott also serves on the board of directors for Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and North Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators where he served as President in 2016 and is currently the Past President.



Ruleen McMillan, Vice President & Secretary, has been active in the local Barnes County North Dollars for Scholars for ten years as a parent and has served as President and Vice President. She feels that Dollars for Scholars is a great organization to help students meet their college goals. Ruleen is an Administrative Assistant at the North Dakota State Hospital in Jamestown where she has been employed for 35 years. She is currently completing her Bachelor's Degree in University Studies from Valley City State University. Ruleen is married with four grown children and three grandchildren. She and her husband live on the family farm near Wimbledon, North Dakota, where her husband farms. In her spare time, Ruleen enjoys going on motorcycle trips with her husband and spending time with her grandchildren.

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Justin Grams, Board Member, has worked in college admissions for 14 years. He is currently the Director of Admission at North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). Prior to NDSCS he worked at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in the Office of Admission for nine years. Justin attended NDSU where he earned his bachelor's degree in Communication and an master's degree in Educational Leadership. He was involved for several years with the Fargo Area Dollars for Scholars chapter where he held various roles. Justin currently serves as the president elect for the Dakota Association of College Admission Counseling. Originally from Brainerd, Minnesota, he is a veteran of the Army National Guard where he completed a deployment to Iraq. Justin makes his home in Fargo with his wife and children.



Brian Schumacher, Investment Committee Chair, leads the Alerus Investment and Fiduciary Services and Alerus Securities departments as the director of wealth management. Together, these two components form the company's wealth management division, which focuses on clarifying and achieving the wealth needs of individual and institutional clients. Brian has more than 12 years of experience in financial services. He joined Alerus in 2011 and progressed through a series of roles including retirement consultant, retirement relationship manager, and product manager. Brian currently serves on the governing board for North Dakota Dollars for Scholars and is an active participant in Junior Achievement. Brian graduated with honors from Concordia College, with degrees in business and economics. He currently holds his Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist designations. Originally from Thompson, North Dakota, Brian now makes his home in Grand Forks with his wife and their two children.

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Judy Harding, Secretary, has been involved with Dollars for Scholars for 15 years as a school counselor and parent. Judy feels it is a very worthwhile organization that helps many young people achieve their college goals. She is married and has five children. Three of them are in college and have benefited from Dollars for Scholars programs. Judy's husband is also an educator; teaching social studies, PE, and coaching. In her spare time, Judy enjoys exercising, reading, camping, boating, and planting flowers. Her passion is teaching and guiding young students into careers that they will find adventurous and fulfilling.



Leigh Nygaard, Board Member, was born and raised Crosby, and is a past recipient of a Dollars for Scholars scholarship as a graduate of Divide County High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of North Dakota. While working in Academic Records and Admissions at Bismarck State College (2010-2014), Leigh developed a better understanding of the importance of scholarships for students continuing their education. Since moving home to Crosby in August of 2014, she has been serving as Webmaster of the Divide County Area Dollars for Scholars. She is also part of a team that works with ChapterNet and helps the high school seniors and returning college student applicants throughout the application process. Leigh also serves on the Divide County Historical Society and Crosby Kids Daycare boards. Currently, Leigh works as a Customer Service Representative for Farm Credit Services of North Dakota in their Crosby office. When she has spare time, she enjoys quilting, reading books, and spending time with friends and family.

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Nicole Poolman, Board Member, was first elected to the North Dakota State Senate in 2012. Since that time, she has served on the Education; Industry, Business and Labor; and Government and Veterans Affairs committees. In the current interim, she is serving on the Health Services, Health Care Reform, and Administrative Rules committees. She is a member of the Lottery Commission, the State Employee Compensation Commission, and the Interagency Coordinating Council. She also serves as a Board Member at Anne Carlsen Center, Assistive, Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, North Dakota Museum of Art, and Protection and Advocacy, where she currently serves as board chair. She has been a public-school teacher for 20 years, currently teaching English at Century High School in Bismarck, ND. She and her husband, Jim, own several small businesses and have three children: Collin (19), Grace (17) and Nick (14). She is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and lives in Bismarck, representing District 7.



Amanda Woidyla, State Director, has been the University and Student Development Coordinator at Bank of North Dakota (BND) since 2016. Previous to BND, she worked one-on-one with students and their families at the University of Mary as they navigated the college admissions and financial aid processes. In her current role, she gives college access and financial aid presentations and is the state coordinator for College Application Month, North Dakota's American College Application Campaign program. Amanda moved to Mandan, North Dakota in 2012 after graduating from the College of St Scholastica in Duluth, MN. Outside of work she enjoys yoga, weightlifting and coffee.

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Staci Holzheimer, State Director, has been in the higher education field in some capacity since 2008. She is currently a University and Student Development Coordinator within the Education Market at Bank of North Dakota (BND). Prior to this role, Staci worked with student loans at BND and was previously in college admissions and advising. She is passionate about higher education and helping students fulfill their dreams of a college degree while encouraging them to be responsible with their financial decisions. Staci has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Along with her role as Co-State Director for North Dakota Dollars for Scholars, Staci is a Co-Chair on the North Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Awareness Committee and serves as a committee member on the YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties Child Care Committee. In her free time, you can find Staci and her husband chasing after their girls, spending time at the lake, and simply enjoying life with their family and friends.