



## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Laura Entzel, State Director  
1-888-592-8540 or [lentzel@nd.gov](mailto:lentzel@nd.gov)

## NDDFS Awards Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarships

North Dakota Dollars for Scholars (NDDFS) awarded the first Edson and Margaret Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarships to three North Dakota students. Eligible students are required to attend a post-secondary education institution in North Dakota or the Red River Valley.

The scholarship includes \$12,000 for post-secondary expenses, to include qualifying study abroad programs and \$3,000 for tuition and fees to participate in a North Dakota leadership program. The three recipients are:

- John Breker is a graduate of Sargent Central Public School who will be a freshman at NDSU studying Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. A state champion of the ND Envirothon competition and president pro tempore at ND Boy's State, John has many interests including how to make improvements to equipment that will serve wet weather conditions in our state.
- John Mitzel is a sophomore at UND studying Banking and Financial Economics. John, from Fargo, was a campaign staffer for John Hoeven in his bid for US Senate. He wants to use his communication skills to serve a financial institution and is also interested in getting involved with politics and serving his community and state.
- Gwen Feist is a graduate of UND with a major in Psychology and minor in Biology who will be attending UND School of Medicine and Health. Gwen, from Glen Ullin, is in the middle of her rotations and hopes to become a physician that can make a difference in a North Dakota community.

Three runner-up also received \$1,000 each. They were Alis Heskin, New Rockford; and Sarah Schaaf and Jarad Wolf of Glen Ullin.

"My Dollars for Scholars chapter in high school helped me pay for my first books in college," said Gwen Feist. "Now 7 years later, Dollars for Scholars is helping me finish my last year of medical school and use my talents to help others in a third world country."

The overall goal of the Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarship is to develop future leaders who intend to return to a community in North Dakota.

"The Edson and Margaret Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarship is firmly rooted in the principles of promoting leadership development," said John Mitzel. "This scholarship will enable me to experience a study abroad program, expose myself to new ideas, and further develop myself as a leader in my community. I am wholly grateful for the foundation's remarkable generosity."

Edson Larson was a successful farmer and Army Air Corp member who served overseas and as a legal clerk while stationed in the United States. Margaret Brunsdale, daughter of former North Dakota Governor Norman Brunsdale, studied at Concordia College and graduated from Wellesley College.

To learn more about this scholarship you may contact Deb Gebeke, at 701-866-1137 or Lianne Rockstad at 701-361-3484 (NDDFS board members). To learn more visit [www.nddfs.org](http://www.nddfs.org).

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