



Chapter News

What is ChapterNet?

This summer is all about the new technology platform, ChapterNet! In response to feedback from chapters, Scholarship American and Dollars for Scholars have created this online tool to help you be more efficient and effective. ChapterNet ties together chapter, state, regional and national information in an effort to improve many aspects for your chapter. ChapterNet features include:

- A website for your chapter that can be customized for your specific needs
- An online, automated scholarship application and matching process
- Online financial reporting
- Chapter administrative tools to assist in scholarship management, student tracking and the ability to communicate easily with donors and volunteers

These tools are designed to replace your current operations, streamline your workload and increase your chapter’s capacity—giving you more time to focus on fundraising, volunteer recruitment and building relationships with students and the community. Currently the platform is being tested by a group of 24 chapters across the nation to ensure that it offers everything you need to operate successfully. The rollout of ChapterNet is scheduled for the end of this year, just in time to be used for the 2012 scholarship season.

It is important that each and every chapter get familiar with ChapterNet before the rollout. You can learn the basics of ChapterNet by participating in one of the online overview sessions this summer. These one hour webinars, hosted by Paul Germscheid and Jenine Keegan from Scholarship America, will answer your questions and give you the opportunity to see the basics of the platform. Get registered for a session today by logging into the Chapter Portal on Scholarship America’s website.

ChapterNet Webinars

- Monday, August 29, 7:00 p.m. Central
- Monday, September 12, 7:00 p.m. Central
- Monday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. Central
- Monday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. Central

If webinar dates do not work for you, another option is to view the recorded session posted on the Chapter Portal.

Once you’ve seen ChapterNet in action, the next step is to attend the “Appreciation Luncheon” in Bismarck on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Here you will receive hands-on, expert training and be guided through the process to set up your chapter’s website and online scholarship applications. ChapterNet is a huge move forward and will help chapters to better serve students, volunteers and the goals of the organization. We look forward to embarking on this venture with you.



Picture of Kenmare Board left to right: DeVonne Hanson, Greg Haugland, Kathy Schumacher, Jean Barnhart, Jerome Essler, Ken Barnhart, Becky Nelson, Steve Bauer, Arnie Jordan

New Members Join NDDFS Board



Chris Gessele was raised on a farm near Mercer, and is a past recipient of a Dollars for Scholars scholarship as a graduate of Turtle Lake-Mercer High School. He earned an associate in biology from Bismarck State College and bachelor in fisheries and wildlife biology and bachelor in mass communications both from University of North Dakota. Chris has worked for BHG, Inc. as editor of the Hazen Star in Hazen since 2007. He currently serves on the scholarship selection committee for Hazen Area Dollars for Scholars.



Kristen Butler has been the Vice President of Client Services at BlackRidgeBANK since July 2008. Prior to that she was employed by a corporate bank for 11 years where her relationship building and leadership skills helped her rise through the ranks until she left to help start up BlackRidgeBANK. She was born in Bismarck, ND, but lived in Arizona off and on until moving back in 2003. She graduated from the University of Mary with an emphasis in business. She enjoys spending time with her husband and three kids. Kristen will assume NDDFS treasurer responsibilities in 2012.

Giving Costs Less In North Dakota

A minimum gift of \$5,000 to an endowment in the 2011 tax year may qualify contributors to take advantage of a valuable North Dakota tax credit. Individuals, businesses, and financial institutions making gifts directly to a qualified endowment are eligible to receive a state income tax credit which amounts to 40 percent of the charitable donation.

This tax credit gives North Dakotans a remarkable opportunity to make meaningful gifts to their favorite charities and get significant reductions in their income tax. It is important that donors make checks payable to the endowment fund in order to be eligible for the credit

Giving to endowments through North Dakota Dollars for Scholars will help provide more scholarship dollars to deserving students throughout our state. An endowment is a fund held by a tax-exempt organization where the principal in the fund is not wholly expendable. Only the interest earned in an endowment fund can be used for current operations. A qualified endowment is defined by North Dakota tax code as a “permanent, irrevocable fund held by a North Dakota incorporated or established organization that is a qualified non-

profit organization; or a bank or trust company holding the fund on behalf of a qualified non-profit organization.”

The maximum credit that may be claimed by individuals, businesses and financial institutions is \$10,000. Married individuals filing a joint return may claim a maximum credit of \$20,000. The credit may not exceed the taxpayer’s income tax liability. Any unused portion of the credit may be carried forward for up to three taxable years.

If a donor is in a 28 percent federal tax bracket, the tax benefit may look like this:

Gift amount	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal tax deduction	-\$1,400	-\$7,000	-\$14,000
N.D. state income tax credit	-\$2,000	-\$10,000	-\$20,000
Net cost	\$1,600	\$8,000	\$16,000

The actual benefits of the contribution may be affected by other state tax considerations. This information is provided for educational purposes only. Please consult your own attorney, accountant or financial advisor for advice on your situation.

Bank Launches Children FIRST Program

Bank of North Dakota launched a new program in May designed to assist families with infants one-year-old and younger in saving for college. Children FIRST, a component of College SAVE, the state of North Dakota’s 529 college savings plan, will now provide an initial \$100 contribution for participants who opt into the program.

The State of North Dakota’s \$100 contribution encourages families to start saving for college related expenses at the earliest possible stage in a child’s life. Children FIRST participants have until their child turns four years old to match the \$100 contribution to retain the state-sponsored donation. “This state-sponsored savings contribution is an investment in our children’s future,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple. “I encourage new parents across North Dakota to take advantage of this unique program, begin saving and provide their children with a higher education and a lifetime of opportunity.”

Participants who enroll in College SAVE, and list a North Dakota resident infant one-year-old or younger as the beneficiary, will receive the \$100

contribution into their account. Any babies born on or after January 1, 2011 qualify for the program.

According to data from The Project on Student Debt, the average debt level for graduating college seniors in North Dakota for 2009 was approximately \$22,000. North Dakota ranks seventh in the nation with 71 percent of college students graduating with debt.

Statistics also indicate that children who have money saved in their name for higher education are seven times more likely to attend a college or university than those who do not.

“Bank of North Dakota is pleased to offer the Children FIRST program which over time can create a new-found legacy of saving for our children’s higher education needs,” said Eric Hardmeyer, BND president. “Now parents, grandparents or any participant can get a head start on saving for college and take advantage of other benefits offered by College SAVE.”

For more information on Children FIRST or College SAVE, go to www.collegesave4u.com.

NDDFS Awards Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarships

The first Edson and Margaret Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarships have been awarded to three North Dakota students. Eligible students are required to attend a post-secondary education institution in North Dakota or the Red River Valley. This premier scholarship includes \$12,000 for post-secondary expenses, to include qualifying study abroad programs, and \$3,000 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.

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

Scholarship Winners Announced

North Dakota Dollars for Scholars offers additional scholarships to North Dakota students from Dollars for Scholars communities. Scholarships are made possible through generous support and donations from Bank of North Dakota, Scheels Foundation, Larson Foundation, family of James A. Guy, family of Joann Link, family of Brad Burgum, and Sanford Health as well as many businesses and individuals throughout North Dakota. Visit the NDDFS website for a complete list of donors.

In 2011, over 600 applications were received from students representing 71 of the 84 chapters currently active in North Dakota. Students from 51 chapters were selected as scholarship recipients. Some scholarship winners are drawn at random and others are scored and evaluated. Congratulations to the 2011 recipients!

James a Guy Returning Students/Graduate Student Scholarship

Tami Abrahamson - Turtle Mountain
Jessie Arneson - Jamestown
Megan Bakko - Kindred
Jenevieve Bayless - Turtle Lake-Mercer
Stephanie Bechtle - Wishek
Brittany Beehler - Mandan
Kasey Bitz - LHS Club
Kristin Blome - Wahpeton
Lisa Dewing - Wilton
Drew Espeseth - Burke
Molly Fritel - Hazen
Brock Gion - Regent
Shelby Heimbuch - Sargent Central
Derek Holt - Fargo
Samantha Holzer - Bowman
Brenna Johansen - Beulah
Casey Jore - Watford City
Jenna Klabunde - Garrison
Tyler Mack - Drake
Allison Mann - Dickinson
Laura Mathiason - CSF of Grand Forks
Kendra Miller - Bismarck
Hannah Moen - Page
Katie Myhre - Richland 44
Chris Narum - Stanley
Lori Nelsen - Leeds
Lyndsie Nelson - Kenmare
Alexis Nicholson - Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock
Justin Omdalen - Mayville Portland Clifford Galesburg
Jayme Perleberg - New Rockford
Chelsie Pollert - Carrington
Brayden Salzer - Ashley
Jared Schumaier - Minot
Jacey Shively - Rugby
Brenna Smithberg - Divide County

Carly Trowbridge - West Fargo
Gregory Wanner - Glen Ullin
Jaden Weiss - New Salem-Almont
Paul Wollmuth - Washburn
Rachel Zahradka - Adams-Edmore

Military Scholarship

Taylor Brenneman - Fargo
Hayley Carpenter - CSF of Grand Forks
Alexa Erdogan - Minot
Colleen Finley - Minot
Matthew Jahner - Dickinson
Veranikah La Trace - Glenburn
Angela Morford - Bismarck
Courtney Peterson - Mandan
Emilee Rath - Wishek
Jessica Sattler - New Rockford

Joanne Link Hetzel Vocational/Technical/Trade School Scholarship

Ethan Bohn - Beulah
Devin Carlson - Northwood
Kimberly Dittus - Kulm
Jace Evanger - Kindred
Grant Gullicks - Finley-Sharon
Kyla Heinle - Glenburn
Jordan Hochhalter - Bismarck
Brenden Kaminsky - Hebron
Erin Krieger - Mayville Portland Clifford Galesburg
Alexa Lauckner - Minot
Drew Lemke - West Fargo
Brittany Miller - MLS
Britney Rowell - CSF of Grand Forks
Daniel Ryan - Valley City
David Schulz - Edgeley
Landon Swangler - Jamestown
Lucas Thompson - Watford City
Charles Wieser - Wahpeton
Andrew Wipf - Dickinson

Dr. Fradkin Regional Community Service Scholarship

Brianna Godejohn - Northern Cass
Kameron Hamley - Turtle Mountain
Kayla Haugen - North Star
Kaitlyn Lengenfelder - Bismarck
Geena Leschisin - Stanley
McKenzie Matteson - Garrison
Lucas Schaaf - Glen Ullin
Elizabeth Taylor - Edgeley

Sanford Health Scholarship

Adam Boe - Fargo
Megan Foerster - Page
Alisa Heskin - New Rockford
Jennifer Keating - Mayville Portland Clifford Galesburg
Amanda Lauinger - Jamestown
Alex Marohl - Wahpeton
Emina Mujcic - Fargo
Samantha Peterson - LHS Club
Anthony Pohl - Hankinson-Mantador
Carly Trowbridge - West Fargo

Edson and Margaret Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarship

John Breker - Sargent Central
Gwen Feist - Glen Ullin
John Mitzel - Fargo

Leadership Scholarship Runner Up

Alisa Heskin - New Rockford
Sarah Schaaf - Glen Ullin
Jarad Wolf - Glen Ullin

Al Lick Youth Correctional Center Scholarship

Courtney Two Hearts - Mandan

Brad and Julie Burgum EMST Scholarship

Taylor Payer - Turtle Mountain
Chad Richter - Carrington

A Letter from Laura, NDDFS State Director

I hope everyone has been having an enjoyable summer in spite of the challenges experienced throughout the state this year. Summer is a great time to assess your chapter’s accomplishments and start planning for the year ahead. 2010 was a good year for Dollars for Scholars and I am pleased to tell you that North Dakota chapters awarded over \$1 million to 1,417 students. This is a tremendous feat and everyone is to be congratulated.

Scholarship America and North Dakota Dollars for Scholars are making meaningful strides to empower your chapter to have an even greater impact on the students in your community. I look forward to seeing many of you in October at the upcoming “Appreciation Luncheon” where we will further discuss the future of our organization. This will be a great opportunity to visit and learn. It is my sincere hope that each chapter is able to send two volunteers. Keep in mind, that in addition to learning valuable information, each chapter that attends will receive \$1,000 from Bank of North Dakota for scholarships to students in your community. I can’t think of a better win-win situation!

Questions or Comments? • statedirector@nddfs.org • 1-888-592-8540



Laura Entzel

ChapterNet, the new technology platform, will be the main focal point of the luncheon. I had the opportunity to receive some ChapterNet training while attending the national staff meeting in St. Peter, MN this past July. I also have been part of the pilot group that is working to test the product before the rollout at the end of this year. From what I have seen, ChapterNet is an exciting and innovative tool. I am confident it will provide some much needed efficiency for chapters while better serving students as they search and apply for scholarships.

Last but certainly not least, I encourage each and every chapter to nominate a volunteer for the Chapter Hero Award. The work you all do is so important and you deserve to be recognized by your peers. Nominations also are a great way for me to learn about the wonderful things you are doing in your communities. I look forward to hearing from you, reading the nominations and seeing you soon.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Bismarck, ND 58506-5509
PO Box 5509



Governing Board Members:

James Barnhardt
Dennis Bense
Kristen Butler
Deb Gebeke
Chris Gessele
Susan Heitkamp
Sue Hendrickson
Lianne Rockstad
Brett Schafer
Chuck Stroup
LaDawn Torgerson

State Director:

Laura Entzel
PO Box 5509
Bismarck, ND 58506
701-328-5702
1-888-592-8540
statedirector@nddfs.org

What’s Inside:

What is ChapterNet..... 2
New Chapter..... 2
New Board Members 3
Giving Costs Less 3
Children First..... 4
Scholarship News 5
Letter from Director..... 6

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Appreciation Event

You are invited to attend the 4th annual “Appreciation Luncheon” hosted by North Dakota Dollars for Scholars (NDDFS) and Bank of North Dakota (BND)!

Saturday, October 15, 2011
University of Mary - Benedictine Center
9:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Join us for an opportunity to receive \$1,000 for your chapter and hands-on experience with ChapterNet. It is so important that each chapter learn to use this tool and set up their own online presence, that we are dedicating the majority of the day to training. The goal of the training is for you to learn how to use the platform, manage your volunteers and donors,

and fill out your online reports. You also will have the opportunity to actually build your chapter website and create your online scholarship applications while at the training. For more information on ChapterNet see page 2.

Each chapter is encouraged to send a minimum of two volunteers who will



receive hands-on computer training. BND will once again honor chapters that attend by presenting them with scholarship funds for students in their community. Because the event this year is so important and we want all chapters to participate, the amount of the award for each chapter has been

increased to \$1,000.

Register to attend at scholarshipamerica.org/conferences or by contacting the state director.

Every Chapter is a Hero

Dedicated volunteers are the foundation and heart of Dollars for Scholars. Your work is invaluable to the organization and to the students whose college education is more attainable because of your efforts. To honor volunteers, we will again recognize Chapter Heroes at the “Appreciation Luncheon”. Each chapter is asked to recommend one Chapter Hero by submitting a nomination form to the state director. Forms are available on the NDDFS website at nddfs.org/chapters/forms.asp. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship for a student in his or her community.

This year’s luncheon is sure to be informative and inspiring. We look forward to seeing you there