
Dean and Heidi Bittner Family Endowment

Dean was a farm boy, and Heidi was a city girl. so when they married, they chose to settle somewhere in between... and they agreed upon Devils Lake! Another thing they agreed upon was the importance of education.

North Dakota roots grew deep in both of them. Dean was raised on a third-generation farm in the Clyde/Munich, North Dakota, area. Heidi grew up in the western North Dakota community of Williston. They both graduated from North Dakota universities; Dean earned his engineering degree from NDSU, while Heidi attended UND and earned an MD.

Dean and Heidi were delighted to raise their family in Devils Lake, and all of their children have benefited from growing up in the Lake Region.

Their oldest daughter, Jessica, took dual credit courses at LRSC while in high school which transferred to UND where she graduated with her engineering degree. At the time the endowment was established, she and her husband, Grant Ruehle, were farm-

ing with Bittner Farms.

Their middle child, Natalie, also took advantage of dual credit classes before she went on to complete her MD degree at UND. She and her husband, Nick Crawford, resided in Spokane, Washington, as she completed her training. She planned to return to North Dakota to practice.

Their youngest, Nicholas, attended LRSC, completing the Wind Energy Technician program. He worked on a North Dakota wind farm for two years as a technician before returning to the area to join his father at Bittner Farms. He and his wife, Rachel, were living on the farm where Dean



grew up. Nick was also an instructor in the LRSC Wind Energy and Drone programs.

The Bittners wanted to see these opportunities made available to others, especially their grandchildren and others who grow up in this area. They wished to support those pursuing careers in agriculture, medicine, or the wind energy field.
