

Darling Family Endowment

Duane and Shirley Darling and their family have been closely linked to LRSC for three generations.

Duane Darling attended LRSC when it was called the “junior college” and located in the Pershing Building. Duane and Shirley’s children each made their own connections with the college—their son, Dan, as a dual-credit math teacher, and their daughter, Denise, as a student. Their son, Doug, served as an instructor, vice president for Instructional Affairs, and today he is the president of LRSC. Doug’s wife, Teresa, is also linked to the institution as an instructor in the English/Humanities Department. Now, a third generation of Darlings, DJ (Doug’s son) and Trevor (Dan’s son), have been students through the Dual Credit program.

The Duane and Shirley Darling Family has a long history as education advocates. It could hardly be any other way. Duane’s life work and his passion was teaching youth. For nearly forty years, he served North Dakota schools as teacher and/or superintendent, a calling that brought the Darling family to many of our state’s smaller communities: Drayton, Esmond, Fordville, Michigan, Center, Berth-old, and Southheart. In each new setting the family’s focus was on getting

acquainted, getting involved, and helping the school system serve students well. Lessons about the importance of education were part of family discussions over the dinner table and were modeled in Duane and Shirley’s activities each day.



When Duane retired, he and Shirley enjoyed the long-anticipated opportunity to winter in Arizona. But even from a distance they kept an eye on North Dakota’s education system. They took pride in the accomplishments of their children and grandchildren, and they always came up with wonderful items for LRSC’s fall fundraising auction, the Key Event.

Although the family launched the endowment in early 2010, Shirley’s bout with cancer and untimely death in December 2010 make the scholarship a fitting legacy for Shirley who was always so passionate about the importance of a good education.

The Darling Family scholarship is awarded annually to a student linked to the Leeds, North Dakota, area, the community the family claims as its home base. Students preparing for a career in education or those involved with student leadership or cultural/international programming will be given priority consideration. •