

William & JoAnn Watson Scholarship Endowment

JoAnn Watson understands the hard work and determination it takes to complete a college degree. As an older-than-average student, working full-time and raising children, it's even more of a challenge. Her dream of a college degree became reality, and she hopes others like her can achieve their dreams, too.

JoAnn graduated from Milton Public School, Milton, North Dakota, in 1971. At that time, a college education was not in her future. She was married in 1971 and is the mother of Andrew Thor Wakeford and Sara Jean Wakeford Ramstad, both of whom attended Lake Region State College. Andy completed an AAS from LRSC in 1996.

In 1992, JoAnn, then living in Osna-brook, North Dakota, wanted to further her job opportunities and pursue higher career goals. She began her education at Lake Region State College and graduated in May 1994 with an Administrative Assistant diploma and an Associate in Applied Science in Office Management. Many of her courses were completed in a distance education format, off campus, at the Cavalier Air Force Station. She commuted to Devils Lake for the remainder of her courses.

But her degree at LRSC was not to be the end of her educational journey. The University of North Dakota offered a Bachelors in Business Administration degree at the Lake Region

campus in Devils Lake. These distance education courses were offered live and via remote television participation through the North Dakota Interactive Video Network (IVN). Additional classes were taken at the Cavalier Air

Force Station to qualify for acceptance into the UND program. Then, for three years—without summer breaks, two nights a week—she drove to Devils Lake, a 150-mile round trip, and graduated with her bachelors degree from UND in December 1998. During this time, she held a full-time job with CHS, Inc. in addition to raising her two children.

In her 26-year career with CHS, Inc. JoAnn worked both in Milton and Crookston, Minnesota, as a grain accounting specialist and office manager. William

Watson, JoAnn's husband of the last 20 years, is a retired Assistant Professor of Aviation at the University of North Dakota. The couple lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

JoAnn's experience in higher education as an older-than-average, single parent prompted her and William to establish this endowment. She feels strongly that Lake Region State College has been an indispensable part of her and her children's successes in life. She hopes the William and JoAnn Watson Annual Scholarship will encourage other adults to further their education. The rewards of a college education are many and are immeasurable! ●

