



CML Champions Fund

May 2024 Newsletter

Mission: "The CML Champions Fund honors our past and fosters the future by championing opportunities today!"

The Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund was established in June 2021 to provide support for educational scholarship, innovative opportunities in the Stephen-Argyle Central School District, and celebrate the passion and legacy of Connie and Merece Lubarski. In addition, the fund is working to strategically support regional innovation that supports the quality of life in Northwest Minnesota focused on mental and physical health, education and community pride.

The CML Champions Fund is managed as a component fund through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. The Northwest Minnesota Foundation is a community foundation with a mission of: Building, Better Lives in Northwest Minnesota. Educational scholarship has been the primary focus of the fund as it has been established. The fund established a \$5,000 scholarship for a graduating senior from Stephen-Argyle Central. This is the largest scholarship offered at SAC and managed by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. The 2023 CML Fund Scholarship recipient was Claire McGlynn and the 2022 CML Fund Scholarship recipient was Macy Haugen.

Macy provided the following update on her higher educational pursuits and the impact of the CML Fund Scholarship:

"I am in my second year in the Exercise Science program at North Dakota State University and will graduate next spring, 2025. Upon graduation, I plan to attend graduate school to become a chiropractor.

During my time in the Exercise Science program, some of my favorite courses have been exercise physiology and lab, chemistry, kinesiology, and methods in resistance training and

cardiovascular conditioning. I am currently taking organic chemistry, biomechanics, exercise and disease, worksite health promotion, and an online seminar class – all of which keep me very busy! Next spring, in lieu of typical coursework, I will be partaking in a semester-long internship in the field of exercise science.

I want to thank you all for the opportunity given to me through the Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund. It was such a significant help in alleviating some of the large costs of college tuition. I often think of how blessed I was to receive this scholarship and the meaning behind it— it truly means so much!”

The CML Champions Fund will award the 3rd annual scholarship at the Stephen-Argyle Central Awards Day Friday, May 10th. The selection process involves a written application, 2 letters of reference, and an interview with the scholarship committee. The scholarship award winners for 2024 are Carsen Safranski son of Tony and Bree Safranski – He plans to attend UND and pursue a degree in Medical Biology/Pre-Med, Jennifer Sargent daughter of Sue Sargent – She plans to attend Northland Community and Technical College for generals and transfer to a 4 year college in pursuit of a degree in Psychology, and Regan Swanson daughter of Jay and Janelle Swanson – She plans to attend Minnesota State University Moorhead in pursuit of a degree in Speech Language Hearing Sciences to become a Speech Language Pathologist. Each of the award winners have earned a \$3,000 scholarship from the CML Champions Fund. The members of the CML Champions Fund Board communicated the following remarks regarding the selection and award: “We know that Connie would have supported an award for ALL three finalists. This is the first award since his passing and we desire to acknowledge this to be especially meaningful. All of these candidates have demonstrated the values of teamwork, determination, dedication, perseverance, physical and mental toughness and leadership in their own unique way.”



Pictured from L to R: Jennifer Sargent, Carsen Safranski, and Regan Swanson.

In addition to a focus on scholarship, the CML Champions Fund has been involved with the championship sign design and construction in Argyle. The CML Fund committed \$10,000 toward this project. The sign is a tremendous addition to the community and a celebration to the success of our communities. We continue to challenge all of the past championship teams and the amazing community supporters to continue to get involved with the CML Champions Fund mission and strategic priorities. Please visit <http://www.sac.k12.mn.us/connie-merece-lubarski-champions-fund.html> for additional information on project funding proposals and ways to contribute to the fund. The fund's current financial status is: \$321,263.71 in assets as of May 17, 2024. The goal of the fund is to raise endowed funds to \$500,000 before Meet your Neighbor Day 2026.

The CML Champions Fund recently allocated the **First Annual Innovation Grant** of \$5,000 to Mrs. McGregor and Mrs. Bossman at Stephen-Argyle Central to support the construction and development of a greenhouse to support the Agriculture Sciences and Food Science programs. This project is a tremendous opportunity for students to extend their knowledge and practices in farm to school business, agriculture growth cycles, and agriculture course programming in the community.

The current Board of Directors for the CML Champions Fund includes: Jay Labine labine.jay@gmail.com, David Bergeron dave.bergeron@ics-builds.com, Shawn Hunstad shunstad@revolvvmfg.com, Nevin Lubarski nlubarski@sacredheartegf.net, Merle Adolphson merleadolphson@gmail.com, Chris Mills - Ex-official cmills@sac.k12.mn.us, and Superintendent Drew Kjono - Ex-official dkjono@sac.k12.mn.us. The Board is currently seeking additional Board members that are interested in growing the fund to serve the communities of Argyle and Stephen, as well as Northwest Minnesota. If you are interested, please contact a board member for additional information.

To contribute to the CML Fund, please send your donation to:

Northwest Minnesota Foundation

Attn: CML Champions Fund

201 3rd Street NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

Or donate online by following the directions below:

- www.nwmf.com, Give Now, Choose Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Education Fund from the "Please direct my donation to" drop down menu, Follow the prompts for submitting your donation.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the fund, please contact a CML Board member.