



CONNIE AND MERECE LUBARSKI CHAMPIONS FUND

Greetings from the Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund team! The Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund was established to provide scholarships and financial support for post secondary education of Stephen-Argyle Central School District graduates, support for the Stephen-Argyle Independent School District #2856 and the Communities of Stephen and Argyle.

This fund celebrates the legacy of Connie and Merece Lubarski and encourages the values they lived their lives by. This legacy was passed on to the 1981 Argyle Eagles State Championship Team members and continues on to all of our Stephen-Argyle State Championship teams. Recipients of proceeds from this fund must embrace the attributes of teamwork, determination, dedication, perseverance, mental and physical toughness, and leadership.

The Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund consists of an Endowed Fund and a Spendable Fund: The *Endowed Fund* will provide for significant scholarships for post-secondary education needs of district graduates of Stephen-Argyle Independent School District #2856 that embrace the core values as lived by Connie and Merece Lubarski. The *Spendable Fund* will be available to distribute funds on an annual basis to support initiatives of the school or communities that align with those same core values as lived by Connie and Merece Lubarski.

What have we been up to?

We have had a busy first year and we are excited to share some updates with you.

The first ever Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund Scholarship was presented at the Stephen-Argyle Central annual awards banquet held in early May.

The selection process for the recipient of this \$5000 scholarship was unique and competitive. It involved a written application, 2 letters of reference as well as an interview with the CML Champions Fund Scholarship Selection Committee.

There were 9 total applicants for the scholarship. From the 9 applications submitted, the CML selection committee members (made up of three 1981 State Championship team members) narrowed to three applicants that they felt best met the criteria for selection. From there, virtual interviews were held, and 1 scholarship awarded.

A big thank you to Janelle Swanson and Nevin Lubarski for being the point people from the Stephen-Argyle Central School district to direct the student applications and guide applicants through the process!

We were pleased to present to Stephen-Argyle Central 2022 graduate Macy Haugen with the 1st ever Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund Scholarship. Macy demonstrated she fully embodies the values this fund represents.



Macy is the daughter of Curtis and Lori Haugen and is the youngest of 4 sisters. Macy was highly involved in nearly every activity and extracurricular opportunity that Stephen-Argyle Central offers, which included volleyball, basketball, track, cross-country, softball manager, band, choir, student council, yearbook, Riverwatch, TEAMS, Knowledge Bowl, as well as being the Class of 2022 Vice-President. All this and having excellent written and interview skill sets as well as being at the top of her class academically!

In the fall, Macy plans to attend North Dakota State University and major in Exercise Science. She plans to pursue a career in healthcare, with a focus in Physical Therapy.

When asked about being the first ever recipient of the CML Champions Fund Scholarship, Macy felt extremely honored and lucky to hear her name. She enjoyed the unique application process, including the interview which gave her the opportunity to meet some of the Scholarship Committee members. The values and morals that the CML Champions Fund represent were impactful to her and she looks forward to carrying on these ideals and improving on them in her future.

Congratulations Macy!!

Where are we at now?

The CML fund was founded in June of 2021. It is administered in partnership with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

The response to this fund has been tremendous! In total the CML fund has raised over \$195,000!! In true championship fashion, the communities of Stephen and Argyle as well as numerous alumni have stepped forward to jumpstart the CML fund and allowed us to deliver on our goal to provide for significant scholarships for post-secondary education needs of district

graduates of Stephen-Argyle Independent School District #2856 that embrace the core values as lived by Connie and Merece Lubarski.

A big thank you to all who have contributed to date!!

Where are we going next?

Be on the lookout for a 2022 Year End newsletter near the holidays. We also are currently exploring the possibilities of the Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund to sponsor a community project, so stay tuned!

Please help us positively impact graduating students from Stephen-Argyle Independent School District #2856, the Stephen-Argyle School District and the communities of Stephen and Argyle.

Please donate or make an additional donation by sending a check payable to **Connie and Merece Lubarski Champions Fund/NMF** and mail to:
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
201 3rd Street NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Or donate online by following the directions below:

- www.nwmf.com
- **GIVE NOW**
- Choose *Conrad and Merece Lubarski Champions Education Fund* from the "Please direct my donation to" drop down menu
- Follow the prompts for submitting your donation

We would love to add you to our email list, so that you can receive future newsletters digitally. Please send us an email at cml.championsfund@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list!

If you have questions or desire more information regarding the CML Champions fund, please email cml.championsfund@gmail.com or call or text Jenn Thompson at 218-201-1977 or Jay at 616-617-2623, David at 701-371-2948, or Shawn at 218-849-7374.

Go Storm!!!

Jay Labine, David Bergeron, & Shawn Hunstad
CML Governance Committee