Bert E. Burns was born in Preston, Iowa in 1915. He graduated from Union Grove High school in 1932 and went on to attend Kenosha Wisconsin Vocational School. He continued his education and received his master's and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. He came to Mankato State Teachers College in 1950 to join the Department of Geography as staff and later served as chairperson from 1964-1974.

Professor Burns was a firm believer in geography field studies, an interest that extended to conducting community and geography-oriented tours for the National Education Association and Elderhostel International. After retirement in 1977, he remained active in education as adjunct faculty at both Mankato State University and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

The Bert E. Burns Geography Scholarship and Field Studies Endowment is established to honor Bert E. Burns for his dedication to geography education, his positive influence on students, and his service as a teacher, colleague, and chairperson in the Mankato State University Department of Geography.

Requirements and Criteria

The scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate student or students majoring in Geography who demonstrate academic achievement and activity in community service. Additionally, this fund can support undergraduate student(s) scholarships in field study projects developed by the Geography Department faculty. The scholarship will be applied towards the recipient's tuition in the following school year, or can be used for field study expenses. These scholarships are valued between $500 and $1700, depending on the number of finalists chosen.

For information regarding page content, please contact:
Department of Geography
Armstrong Hall 07
507-389-2617