Professor Emeritus Dr. Truman David Wood taught for thirty years in the Political Science/Law Enforcement Department. His personal interest in students has touched the lives of many who have in turn made major impacts on the Mankato area, Minnesota, the U.S. and even around the world. His caring and concerned manner has encouraged students to be proud of who they are, where they come from, and to make the communities in which they live better places for all. Truman stressed community involvement in his teaching.

Reta Hoover Wood was a Mankato elementary school teacher for 25 years and shared her husband’s dedication to community. She has been involved in church and community activities. Reta has provided refreshments and food for the Scholarship Board at each meeting.

In honor of Truman and Reta, the Wood Scholarship will allow students to continue the Wood tradition. Scholarship winners are chosen on the basis of academic excellence, community service, and leadership.

Dr. Wood has stated, “The torch of leadership illuminates the path to a sense of community. Without its light there is only the darkness of despair...” The Woods intend to encourage and promote in positive ways the very essence of better communities at every level. Community service and leadership will make a difference.

The Woods’ ultimate joy is seeing the successes of their former students.