

Susan O'Brien Swanson

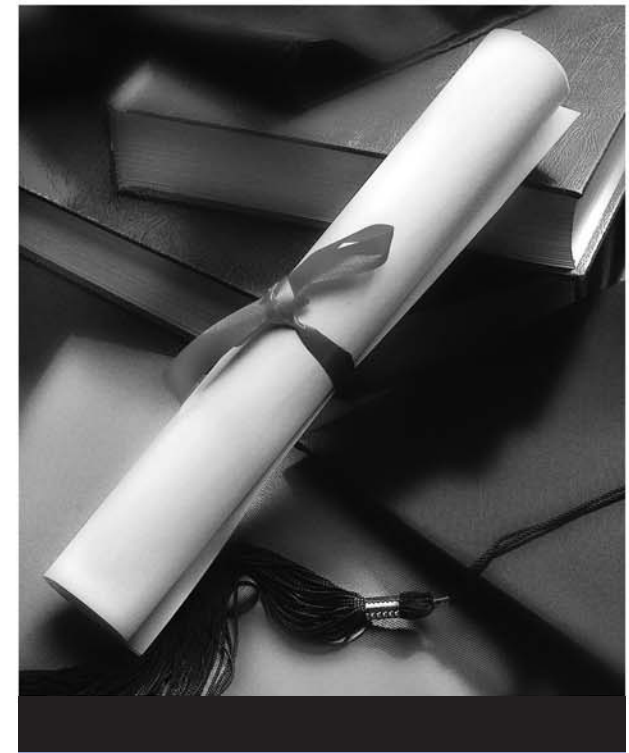


Susan was a graduate of Argenta-Oreana High School, and Illinois State University with Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education. She was a Special Education teacher for 27 years in the Decatur school district, and was voted

Brush College School Teacher of the Year. Susan was a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, Delta Kappa Gamma, and an active member of the Decatur Education Association serving as a building representative.

Susan accomplished all of this while living with Multiple Sclerosis since her sophomore year of college. Susie never gave up: when MS reduced her ability to walk she continued teaching from an electric scooter. With the help of DEA she filed and won a disability discrimination suit so that she could continue teaching.

Susan's husband, Lloyd was a Decatur Police Officer for 27 years, past vice president and sergeant at arms of the Policemen's Benevolent & Protective Association unit 39. Their son Andrew graduated from Illinois College with a degree in Computer Science. Lloyd and Andrew have established this scholarship in Susan's memory to continue her commitment to education by providing financial assistance to the children of those who have dedicated themselves to public service



The Susan Swanson Memorial Scholarship

*For high school graduates
who are children of members
of the DEA or PBPA Unit 39*



Purpose

The award is to provide a scholarship to a full-time undergraduate student who plans to complete a four year degree.

The Amount

1. An annual award of \$1,000 will be made from the fund, and the remaining balance in the fund will be invested to create income for the fund. If the excess income exceeds \$1,000, advisors to the fund may award a second scholarship or increase the amount of the award.

2. The annual amount of the award shall be \$1,000 per year for four years, as long as the recipient submits evidence of appropriate progress towards a degree following the fall and spring semesters and maintains a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Any one recipient is limited to a total award of \$4,000 over a four year period. The Fund will make an award to one recipient per year. An alternate will also be selected in the event that the recipient does not pursue their educational goals.

Eligibility

Any graduate of a four-year high school as designated above, who is a child of a member of the DEA or PBPA Unit 39. For purposes of this scholarship a child is defined as a son, step-son, daughter, or step-daughter.

Frequency of Award

Annually, however, The Foundation reserves the right not to award scholarships if a qualified applicant does not apply.

Application Process

Applications shall be on a form developed by The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County. Deadline for applications, to be submitted to the office of The Community Foundation, is on or before February 1.

Selection Committee

The selection committee will be appointed by The Community Foundation Board of Directors but will include the president, or a designee of the president, of the DEA and the president, or a designee of the president, of the PBPA Unit 39.

Selection Criteria

1. Candidate must have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
2. Candidate must submit 1 written recommendation from a teacher.
3. Special consideration shall be given to applicants who declare a major in Education, Special Education, Computer Science, or Law Enforcement.
4. Special consideration shall be given to applicants have parents involved in both the DEA and the PBPA Unit 39.
5. Special consideration shall be given to applicants whose immediate families have been touched by Multiple Sclerosis.

Selection Procedure

The selection committee may use any method of selection they desire as long as it encompasses the basic criteria for the selection listed above.

Notification of Recipients

The recipient shall be notified in writing by May 30 of the award year.

Distribution of Award Funds

One half of the payment of the \$1,000 annual award will be made to the college the recipient plans to attend each fall and spring semester to be applied against tuition.

Presentation of Award

The presentation of this award, including an appropriate certificate provided by The Foundation, may be made at the Honors Assembly or at another activity appropriate to the purpose of the award and consistent with the selection committee's recommendation.

Acknowledgement

The recipient shall communicate annually in writing to The Foundation of the manner in which the scholarship funds were used to further their interest and knowledge in their chosen major. The Foundation will correspond with one designated member of the Swanson family and to others as The Foundation considers appropriate.