



Nevada Science Foundation combats nursing shortage

The projected shortage of qualified nurses in the United States could reach a half million by 2025, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The Nevada Science Foundation is battling the nursing shortage in Nevada through a substantial scholarship endowment to support students in the Orvis School of Nursing.

Through the endowment, both graduate and undergraduate nursing students receive scholarships that continue through four terms and completion of their degrees. To be eligible, students must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.0, with preference given to Nevada residents from Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey counties. The scholarship is named in memory of the National Science Foundation's founder, Josef Waxler.

Waxler was an electrical contractor with a life-long interest in education and in helping others. In 1990, Waxler established the Nevada Science Foundation to carry out his charitable giving, with an emphasis in providing scholarships.

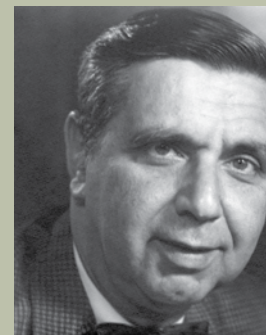
Waxler served as executive director of the Nevada Science Foundation until he passed away in 2006. Waxler's philanthropy was directed toward education throughout his lifetime because he believed that "education is

something you can always take with you—it can't be taken away."

Waxler was an explorer from his youth, serving in the merchant marines so that he could see the world. Over an eight-year period later in life he visited Easter Island annually, promoting and providing opportunities for education to island children who might otherwise not have progressed beyond grade school.

Lavina Atkinson worked as a nurse for more than 40 years and has served as the president of the Nevada Science Foundation since its inception. "It was Mr. Waxler's desire to help with the nursing shortage through scholarships," says Atkinson. "The Nevada Science Foundation's purpose in supporting scholarships is to acknowledge the life of Josef Waxler and illustrate the importance he placed on education by providing financial aid to those worthy of assistance in the pursuit of studies in nursing."

Mary Powers, a graduate student in nursing, says, "Getting the Waxler Scholarship this year meant being able to afford additional credits for my master's degree. I had never experienced receiving a scholarship. I will always remember how wonderful a surprise that was and hope to be in a position to do that for another student some day."



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Founded in 1956, the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno is the oldest school of nursing in the state and is dedicated to serving the people of Nevada through quality teaching, research and service.

If you would like to support nursing education at Nevada, please contact Stefanie Scoppettone, director of development for the Division of Health Sciences, at 775-682-9143 or scops@unr.edu.



University of Nevada, Reno
Foundation