

Choctaw Alumni Association (CAA) – Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship  
*Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Emphasis*

Background:

The Choctaw Alumni Association (CAA) has established the ***Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Emphasis*** to honor the memory of one of Choctaw High School's (CHS) most revered and respected faculty members.

- Mrs. Shaw taught mathematics and served as a sponsor of many CHS extracurricular activities during her 19 year tenure at CHS spanning the late 1940s through the 1960s. She then taught for another 18 years in the Harrah public schools.
- Her mastery of subject matter, impeccable attire and demeanor, classroom command and expectations, and a genuine concern for her students (both during and following their high school years) made a lasting impact on their lives.
- Following her retirement, Mrs. Shaw maintained close relationships with many of her former students. Their admiration and endearing/enduring respect for her was consistently illustrated by her open invitation to attend their regular class gatherings and reunions – which she faithfully did. She also collaborated with other CHS Alumni in preserving the memory of deceased CHS alumni, administration, faculty, and support staff through constant research of newspapers and other public records, making copies thereof, and maintaining an extensive/elaborate alumni memory book.
- CHS Alumni who were privileged to be under Mrs. **Shaw's** tutelage and to subsequently interact with her in later years have described her as: wise; humble; dedicated; diligent; disciplined; focused; reliable; attentive to detail; sensitive and responsive to the learning challenges/needs of all students regardless of academic capability/performance; articulate; approachable; excellent communicator; master teacher; elegant; carried herself with dignity and distinction; committed to learning; commanded and received respect; supportive of all activities outside the classroom that enhanced student development; beacon of honesty and integrity.

Scholarship Amount: \$2,000

Scholarship Type: Annual (starting in Spring 2022)

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- A graduating CHS Senior with plans to pursue a STEM-related career by majoring in corresponding field(s) of study at an accredited college, university, and/or vocational-technical school;
- An individual exhibiting:
  - a GPA of 3.75 or better - reflective of a sincere commitment to learning;
  - an attitude of respect for student peers, C-NP school administrators, faculty, and staff;
  - the ability to work with others in the achievement of common goals;
  - conduct that illustrates dependability, honesty, integrity, and concern for others;
  - involvement/participation in activities outside the formal classroom environment (school-related extra-curricular; church; community; ... etc.);
  - overall characteristics that continue to honor the legacy of Mrs. Shaw and the mission of the CAA.

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### Scholarship Application Process Criteria:

- **Scholarship applicants** will be required to:
  - research the history of the Choctaw-Nicomma Park School District, the legacy of Mrs. Ruth E. Shaw, and the Choctaw Alumni Association;
  - attend a C-NP School District Board meeting;
  - complete the scholarship application form supplied by the C-NP School District;
  - provide written recommendation from C-NP faculty member(s);
  - include typewritten report (two page minimum) on their research, Board meeting attendance, and their plans for scholarship use as part of the scholarship application package;
  - submit the completed scholarship application package to the designated C-NP School District office no later than 31 March.

### Scholarship Selection/Award Process:

- **CHS administration/faculty representative(s)** - as designated by the C-NP School District Superintendent - shall:
  - incorporate the *Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Emphasis* criteria as outlined herein into an approved C-NP School District scholarship application form/format;
    - include this document in its entirety in the scholarship application package;
    - refer applicants to the CAA website - [www.choctawalumni.org](http://www.choctawalumni.org) - for additional reference.
  - advertise/communicate availability of the scholarship;
  - accept applications in accordance with C-NP School District policies and CAA scholarship criteria as outlined herein;
  - notify designated CAA scholarship point of contact of scholarship application review schedule.
- **The CAA** reserves the right to have at least one CAA representative involved in the scholarship application review/selection/award process.
- **The CHS/CAA scholarship review team** shall:
  - review applications, ensure compliance with scholarship criteria, and/or interview applicants as deemed appropriate;
  - determine the applicant to whom the scholarship will be awarded;
    - financial and/or any subjective "need based" criteria shall not factor into award consideration;
    - special consideration shall be given to performance in advanced STEM -related courses;
  - notify the CAA of the scholarship recipient and provide the recipient's application package.

### Scholarship Presentation:

- **The CAA** will work with the designated CHS administration/faculty representative(s) and/or C-NP School District leadership to arrange for formal presentation of the scholarship.
  - Scholarship presentation at a C-NP School District Board meeting is the preferable option.

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### Scholarship Payment:

- **The CAA** will make scholarship payment by check - made payable and mailed directly to the registrar/bursar at the accredited institution where the scholarship recipient is enrolled.
- **The scholarship recipient** will:
  - obtain the applicable payee information and mailing address of the registrar/bursar office to whom the scholarship payment shall be made;
  - provide this payee information to the CAA via email to [info@choctawalumni.org](mailto:info@choctawalumni.org) and [caa@choctawalumni.org](mailto:caa@choctawalumni.org) --or-- via written correspondence mailed to the CAA at PO Box 51, Choctaw, OK 73020.
  - allow a minimum of four (4) weeks lead time for the CAA to make scholarship payment arrangements.