



### **Curtis Marvin Hohn**

*This scholarship is given in honor of the life and work of Curtis M. Hohn.  
South Dakota state water policy leader, public servant, and community activist*

Curt Hohn was one of a family of 12 children raised on a farm near Plankinton, SD, and a 1972 graduate of Northern State College. He served on the staff of U.S. Senator George McGovern from 1972-74, and executive director of United Family Farmers from 1975-76. As manager of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict from 1977-1982, Curt played a leading role in the review of the Oahe Irrigation Project and legislative settlement for alternate water projects. Curt led the negotiations for the local Oahe Sub District with Congress and the US Department of Interior. The replacement of the Oahe Irrigation Project by the WEB domestic water pipeline was a transformative change in state and federal water policy for South Dakota.

As manager of the WEB Project from 1983-1987, Curt coordinated legislative authorization, funding and construction of the \$100 million WEB Rural Water Project, the first major pipeline project to use Missouri River water in South Dakota. Curt's legacy as "*the young defector*" is chronicled in *Uphill Against Water (the Great Dakota Water War)* by author Peter Carrels. Oahe's story examined the conflict between the power of government and ordinary citizens. Hohn helped marshal "*a coalition of farmers and environmentalists attempting to protect the land they lived on, farmed and loved.*" (Ed Marston, *High Country News*, 1999).

Curt was the Democratic candidate for the United States Congress in 2000. Although not elected, he continued to serve South Dakota by seeking resolutions to issues that impacted the public interest. During his last years, Curt led citizen intervention in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission hearings regarding the Trans-Canada Crude Oil Pipeline.

Curt was an avid reader of history. His lifetime commitment of political courage and public service are reflected in the words of Robert F. Kennedy a man Curt deeply admired & often quoted—

*"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."*

## Curtis Marvin Hohn Scholarship

Criteria:

The competitive \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to seniors graduating from a South Dakota High School attending a public or private college, university, or technical school in South Dakota.

(Preference will be given to applicants pursuing studies in history, political science, or water resources (i.e., water conservation; water quality; hydraulics; water systems management and operation; or environment))

Applicants for the Curtis Marvin Hohn Legacy Scholarship will reflect the values that embodied Curt Hohn's life. These characteristics may include, but not limited to:

- Personal integrity, individual character, and courage
- Leadership in school and community
- Demonstrated involvement in civic affairs
- Participation in organizations that shape the school and community
- Individual leadership to reform policies that benefit the public good of the school and community
- Demonstrated work ethic in the school and community
- Demonstrated interest in national and global issues that impact the public interest
- Demonstrated interest in humanitarian issues

Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Curtis Marvin Hohn Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship is funded by the Curtis Marvin Hohn Endowment Fund with the South Dakota Community Foundation

The scholarship payment will be made to the College, University or Technical School upon the student registration.

## Scholarship Application

Applications must be completed and emailed on or before March 10 to:

**Curtis Marvin Hohn Scholarship Committee**

**CurtisMarvinHohn@gmail.com**

*If you prefer mailing in your application, please contact for address.*

Students full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate of \_\_\_\_\_ High School

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ ACT score: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of South Dakota College, University, or Technical School you plan to attend:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Course of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Each applicant is required to provide the following information:

- 1). Describe your High School Activities and your leadership role and honors in those activities.
- 2). Describe community service activities outside school that you have participated in and your role in those activities.
- 3). Write an essay describing your interests and career goals, and how you plan to reach those goals.
- 4). Describe any personal values and experiences that support your career and personal goals.

Attach a copy of your high school transcript and a letter of reference (From a teacher employer, or community contact. The reference must be from a person not related to you.)

*Application check list: (all required for your application to be considered)*

- *Application complete*
- *Copy of high school transcript*
- *One letter of reference*