



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Pilot's Legacy Lives on through Advanced Aviation Scholarship Fund

The Community Foundation's Scholarship Program can not only open doors of educational opportunity for area students, but also establish a legacy for the ones we love, who live on in our hearts.

For Bill Cowden, aviation wasn't just a career choice, but a way of life. Since he was a young boy, Bill had always dreamed of being a pilot. Through diligence and perseverance, he nurtured that goal into a 25-year-long aviation career. As a private pilot, North Dakota Air National Guard F-16 pilot, commercial airline pilot and air show performer, Bill accumulated over 7,500 flight hours in more than 85 different models of aircraft. He held a Level 1 Unrestricted Surface Level Aerobatic waiver. Bill was also an Airframe and Power Plant mechanic and aircraft builder. He loved giving rides to and mentoring aspiring young pilots, and served on numerous aviation boards and committees.

Bill passed away unexpectedly in June 2014 in an air show accident at the age of 47. Those who knew Bill remember his attention to detail and hunger to attain each subsequent aviation rating. His passion was honing his aviation skills and promoting aviation activities in all their forms. It is in this spirit and in his loving memory that his wife, Heather Cowden, reached out to the Community Foundation of Dunn County to establish the Bill Cowden Memorial Aviation Scholarship. It is Heather's hope that aspiring pilots who lack the financial resources to pursue advanced pilot training will be able to fulfill their dreams in Bill's memory.

Starting this year, one scholarship will be available each year to provide financial support to an area pilot working to obtain higher ratings in aviation, up to \$1,500. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

Criteria of Eligibility:

- Applicant must hold a current Private Pilot Certificate and plan to pursue advanced training in aviation.

- Applicant must provide a professional resume, and include at least one letter of recommendation related to aviation skills and aspirations.
- Applicants must submit a one-page, typewritten essay giving their reasons for pursuing advanced training in aviation.

The full scholarship application and description is available on the Community Foundation website at www.cfdunncounty.org or upon request. Scholarships are typically paid directly to the qualified flight school or certified flight instructor. For more information, please contact the Community Foundation of Dunn County at (715) 232-8019 or email grants@cfduunncounty.org

Our mission is to inspire philanthropy and be a catalyst for strengthening communities throughout Dunn County. For more information about the Community Foundation or how you can become involved, contact Executive Director, Georgina Tegart at 715-232-8019 or by e-mail at gtegart@cfduunncounty.org.

[Bill Cowden Photo]