

**Stuart R. Carlson Memorial Endowed Scholarship &
Alphonse "Gator" Abadie Memorial Endowed Scholarship**



Creating an endowed scholarship with the Northshore College Enhancement Foundation (NCEF) began as a result of the sudden passing of my late father-in-law, Alphonse “Gator” Abadie. As we were planning for the funeral, I mentioned to my mother-in-law, Linette Abadie, the idea of donating to a scholarship fund in lieu of flowers what seemed to be a rather innocuous suggestion resulted in over \$12,000 in donations from friends and family members who wanted to honor the memory of Mr. Abadie. Those who knew him understood how much he was a strong supporter of a good education.

With the assistance of NTCC’s former Vice-Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Tina Tinney, we were able to leverage the initial donation for a matching funds opportunity with the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR); creating the first endowed scholarship fund at Northshore Technical Community College. This endowed scholarship honors Mr. Abadie’s passion for helping others achieve their educational and career goals. It encourages students of promise and need who aspire to gain a higher education. In addition, Gator was very proud of his two daughters, Jessica, a Nurse Practitioner, and Erin, a Registered Nurse. As a result, his memorial

endowed scholarship is awarded annually to an NTCC student preparing for a career in the Health Sciences field.

Unfortunately, a few years later, I lost my father, Stuart Reed Carlson, to a long battle with cancer. Upon his passing, I knew immediately that I wanted to honor his legacy by establishing a scholarship with Northshore College Enhancement Foundation (NCEF). My dad was a first-generation college graduate who truly understood the power of education. It would be an opportunity to help other students how education helped my father and his family. So, during the funeral preparation, we asked for donations to help create a memorial scholarship in my father's memory in lieu of flowers.

Within a few weeks, we donated enough money to ask for a \$10,000 BOR matching grant opportunity to create the Stuart R. Carlson Memorial Scholarship at NTCC. This scholarship is open to any NTCC Nursing or STEM Transfer Pathway program student who demonstrates high leadership, ethical standards, responsible citizenship, volunteerism, and academic success. My dad was a proud Army veteran, so preference is given to students who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, or Coast Guard.

Although my father and father-in-law did not attend NTCC, I felt it was a great way to give back to the community in which their children call home. The Abadie and Carlson families believe these endowed scholarships are vital to NTCC and our future workforce. They are awarded annually at the Chancellor's Sunrise Breakfast, and it provides us with a formal opportunity to recognize the scholarship recipient and honor the legacy of our fathers. I often call it the "therapy" I needed and the "feel-good moment of the year." My wife and I hope these scholarships will have a profound impact on these programs and students, as well as our communities, for years to come.