

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indiana Funeral Education Foundation Announces Professional Development Scholarships

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — February 7, 2022 — The Indiana Funeral Education Foundation is pleased to announce the inaugural Professional Development Scholarships. The Indiana Funeral Education Foundation will offer up to five (5) \$2,000 professional development scholarships. These scholarships are available to any member of IFDA - licensed and un-licensed firm staff, individual, senior, and associate members.

These annual scholarships are made possible by generous donations to the foundation. Isaac Ball Fellows are named when a donation(s) of \$1000 or more is made by an individual or company. The Indiana Funeral Education Foundation currently has over 160 Isaac Ball Fellows.

Each year, the Foundation will rename the scholarships to highlight those that are making the greatest impact to our foundation. Below are the 2022 Professional Scholarship honorees and why they feel so passionately about funeral service education.

Todd Family Professional Scholarship

According to Jim Todd, "My father constantly talked throughout his life of his time at Mortuary college and the wonderful people he met and lifelong friendships that he made.

As I grew and worked in his business, I realized what an important element this is in the life of a funeral director. He felt that a foundation which could support education in such people was a great idea. I simply wanted to continue that support.

It is my hope that our profession can attract and maintain worthy directors who can truly help families through one of the most difficult experiences in our life. My cry would simply be "Education, Ethics, and Honesty...IFDA"

James Todd, Todd Funeral Centre & Crematory

LaHayne Family Professional Scholarship

When asked why the LaHayne family is so supportive of the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation, LaHayne responded, "Three generations of LaHayne's have been in funeral service. We know how valuable the funeral is to the families who entrust us with the care of their loved ones and to the communities we serve. Donating

to the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation so they can give scholarships to individuals who want to perpetuate this noble profession is a no-brainer.

I would love to see funeral service continue well into this century and beyond because I believe in what we do and what we stand for. There will always be a need for someone to care for the dead and help the living.

The role of the foundation is to make sure that the men and women who want to be part of this profession have a means, financially, to follow their dream. Giving scholarships is probably one of the best ways for this to happen. Keep up the great work that you are currently doing.”

Elden LaHayne, LaHayne Funeral Home

French Family Professional Scholarship

Susie French and Nicholas French chime in on why their family feels so strong about the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation. According to Nick French, “Education has been one of the cornerstone beliefs of our business. Both of my parents encourage and reward continued learning.”

As for the French family contributions, Nick would like to see more high-level training brought to Indiana such as what has been delivered by Vernie Fountain in the past. He also stated, “I would enjoy looking beyond funeral service into other industries that have successfully navigated a monumental change in their industry or that have similarities to our profession.

I would like to see the foundation invest in those who are already licensed. Grant scholarships and advanced learning opportunities in self advancement in areas such as hospitality, conflict management, business development, and navigating grief. Continue to invest in courses that enhance embalming, restorative art, and cosmetology.”

Susie French agrees, “We have always placed great importance on education and the Foundation assists with students who have a need and who have the drive to succeed.

Our directors who have attended the Fountain Education seminars have directly helped with caring for our families in need with skills beyond a standard classroom. We have seen the outcome firsthand and would always support enhanced educational opportunities.

Our profession must always move forward with education, skill sets, and legal knowledge, among other things. We cannot stay fixed, we must move and change along with society.”

*Susie French and Nicholas T. French, F.D., CFSP, MLDI
French Funeral Home, Lawson-Miller Chapel and Schoppenhorst Funeral Home*

Butler Family Professional Scholarship

Ron King says, “Our family chose to support the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation as a way to give back to the Profession and State that have given our family business so much. We feel that a well-educated and well-rounded funeral professional is essential as the profession changes, and we want to support organizations that will help provide those tools.

We want to see as many funeral service practitioners and future practitioners further their careers and knowledge. Also, one day we hope that our contributions will help provide a fully funded funeral education for a student.

We see the foundation as a catalyst to assist Future Funeral Professionals and current practitioners to further their educational desires, with opportunities not only with IFDA events but also specialized events throughout the country.”

Ron King, Butler Coach Company

St. Pierre Family Professional Scholarship

Paul St. Pierre says his family supports the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation because “It is a simple and straightforward argument that investing in quality education has immeasurable returns. Investing in the Foundation closes funding gaps for those desiring to enter our profession. Creating opportunities and programs is why we need the Foundation.”

“We know that it is a financial struggle for anyone to pause working for an education. We hope an investment in the Foundation will bring returns to us with quality, well-educated staff,” says St. Pierre.

Paul said the following regarding how he envisions the foundation moving our profession forward, “People are not staying in one profession as long as they have in years past. We would like to see the Foundation create opportunities for second career students, by introducing funeral service as an option.”

Paul St. Pierre, St.Pierre Family Funeral & Cremation Services

The application deadline for the scholarship is March 31, 2022. For eligibility requirements and to apply, go to <https://www.infda.org/the-indiana-funeral-education-foundation>.

About Indiana Funeral Education Foundation

Death is a universal human experience and yet it remains the ultimate mystery. From the beginning of time, people have received comfort and support from those who have made it their life’s work to care for the dead and comfort the living.

The mission and purpose of the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation is first to preserve and document that history. Second, to support the funeral service practitioners of today-helping them to better serve their communities. And finally, to ensure a secure future of the profession by helping recruit and train those wanting a career in funeral service.

For more information regarding scholarships or donations please contact:

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