

Derby Community Foundation
Ada Thoma and Melva Owens Memorial Scholarship
Application Form

Application Deadline - March 31
(Must be postmarked by March 31)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Alternate Phone _____ Course of study _____

School you will be attending next year _____

Remembering Ada Thoma

Ada Thoma was a dedicated woman with a passion for teaching. Ms. Thoma was a teacher at Derby High School in the Business Education Department for 19 years. Upon retirement, Ms. Thoma established the Ada Thoma No-Interest Student Loan Program with Derby Community Education. These funds were transferred to the Derby Community Foundation when Derby Community Education dissolved.

Remembering Melva Owens

From the humble beginnings as a student in a one-room school house in central Oklahoma, Dr. Melva Owens became a nationally recognized expert on the topic of educational leadership. Dr. Owens's career was full of risk-taking and distinction. She served as principal of Derby High School for 2 years and as superintendent for Derby USD 260 for 6 years; she was just the third woman in Kansas to gain the rank of superintendent among 304 local school districts. Dr. Owens was the first woman to be elected President of the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals and to be named Kansas Principal of the Year. Dr. Owens was a capable, caring, effective teacher and administrator with a rare combination of personal and professional skills.

About the Derby Community Foundation

The mission of the Derby Community Foundation is to enrich the quality of life in the Derby area by being a catalyst for connecting people and resources with community needs and initiatives.

Scholarship Award

The Ada Thoma and Melva Owens Memorial Scholarship will be announced during the annual Derby Community Foundation Scholarship Reception in the spring of the year. An alternate recipient will be selected each year, if possible. If the chosen recipient declines or does not use the scholarship that year, the alternate will receive the scholarship. If there are no qualified applicants for a given year, two scholarships may be given the following year or the selection committee can decide to increase the scholarship given to the recipient that year. The scholarship amount to be awarded will be \$850 and will be sent directly to the post-secondary institution to be attended by the recipient.

Selection Committee and Process

The Ada Thoma and Melva Owens Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee is comprised of retired educators from Derby Unified School District 260. The Executive Director of the Derby Community Foundation serves as an ex-officio member of the committee. The scholarship

applications will be reviewed through a “blind submission” process: each application will be assigned a number and committee members will not be given the names of the applicants until the recipient is selected.

Student Eligibility

The Ada Thoma and Melva Owens Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a USD 260 graduating senior who intends to pursue an education career and will be applied to expenses of his/her first year of education after high school at an accredited post-secondary educational institution in Kansas. Selection of recipients will be made without regard to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin. The student must have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or an ACT score of 21. Students who receive full scholarships to college are not eligible for this scholarship.

Application Requirements

Applicants must complete the application form and submit it in one envelope with the following: certified copy of the most recent high school transcript; letter of support from a teacher, administrator, employer or other adult (who is not a family member) explaining why he/she feels you are qualified to receive this scholarship.

**Send to: Derby Community Foundation
Ada Thoma and Melva Owens Memorial Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 372
Derby, KS 67037**

Questions? Call the Derby Community Foundation at 316/788-9815 or email at admin@derbycf.org

To be completed by DCF:

**Ada Thoma and Melva Owens Memorial Scholarship
Blind Application Form**

Applications must be typed.

List your work experience, community involvement and/or extra-curricular activities:

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. We are interested in your thinking and in your ability to express yourself.

What does “community service” mean to you?

What are your plans for post-secondary study and for the years following?

Describe an educator who has had a positive influence in your life.