

Lisa Nelson Memorial Scholarship-2024

Background

Good evening. My name is Paul Nelson, and this is my daughter Whitney. We are excited to acknowledge the recipients of the twelfth annual Lisa Nelson Memorial Scholarship here on "Lisa Nelson Court". It gives us great pleasure to introduce the male and female recipients who will each receive a \$5000.00 college scholarship in honor and memory of Coach Nelson.

For those who are not familiar with Coach Nelson, she was a P.E. teacher and the head volleyball coach here at Ralston Valley from 2000-2013.

She truly loved her position as an educator and a coach and she genuinely and deeply cared for her students, her athletes, and her colleagues.

Tragically on March 3, 2013, she passed away after a courageous battle with cervical cancer. She was 43. She never let cancer compromise her way. She battled cancer with dignity,

strength and courage. She touched many lives here at RV during her 13-year tenure as a teacher and a coach.

To commemorate her life and to ensure that she continues to influence the lives of Ralston Valley students the Lisa Nelson Memorial Scholarship was established. Since its inception in 2013, Ralston Valley students, faculty and staff in conjunction with the surrounding community and many generous sponsors have contributed to ensure the stability and longevity of the fund.

So many people have helped the fund grow by participating in our annual fundraising events. I want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Braketa and to the members of Student Government who annually organize and run the "Lisa Nelson Mustang Stampede" a 5K that directly benefits the scholarship fund. I also want to thank all students, parents, teachers and staff members who participated in last fall's 5K.

Together we have created a scholarship we can be proud of. Together we are fulfilling the mission of the scholarship board, which reads...**We want to remember and honor Lisa's legacy and Pay It Forward...** through college scholarships for Ralston Valley High School Student Athletes.

Selecting two recipients is not an easy task, there are some amazing student athletes in this building. Narrowing it down was very difficult due to the quality of the applications. Thank you to all of those that applied and to the teachers and staff that assisted them.

Both of tonight's recipients possess qualities respected by Coach Nelson. They are tremendous students, have experienced athletic achievement and have demonstrated leadership, good character, citizenship, sportsmanship and community involvement.

Hi my name is Whitney Nelson and I am proud to present this year's female recipient.

Addy Feir

Academics

Our female recipient will be attending Colorado State University in the fall. She is a National Honor Society and a National Spanish Honor Society member carrying a 4.4 weighted GPA. As a Mustang Mentor she regularly teaches lessons in freshman advisement on social emotional topics. She has received First Team Academic All State honors for all four years that she has been at RV.

Athletics

Athletically our female recipient competed in softball, golf, track and basketball. She excelled in softball where she was a four year varsity letter winner, a three time 2nd team all

conference recipient and served as team Captain. As a sophomore Coach Davies saw something special in her, describing her as a "silent leader" and "one of the most dedicated people she has ever met". In her essay to the scholarship board, she explains that playing sports was one of the most impactful and rewarding experiences of her life, challenging her both as a student and an athlete. She writes "sports are where I met my best friends and learned the values of hard work, determination, and discipline". As she closed her essay she reflected on all the lessons she learned as a student athlete saying... "As I continue through my life and embark on my academic journey at Colorado State University, I will: continue to have confidence, be kind to everyone, try new things with an open mind, work hard, remember the reasons for everything I do, find what I am passionate about, and never take anything for granted.

Community

Our female recipient has been very active in community service. She has helped set up and run RV's Trick or Treat Street. She has volunteered as an outdoor lab leader for Drake Middle School. She has participated in Special Olympics Softball day by assisting Jeffco students with various disabilities. She has contributed to events like the West Woods Carnival, volunteered over 20 hours for the boys basketball concession stand, and volunteered at her church. She has worked with an education support group called "From Nest to Wings" and she has coached numerous youth sports through the APEX and B & B Basketball Club.

For outstanding academic achievement, for being a tremendous athlete, and for selfless service to the community, I am proud to introduce Addy Feir as the female recipient of the Lisa Nelson Memorial Scholarship.

Logan Madden

Academics

Our male recipient will be attending Washburn University in the fall. He is a member of Student Government and the National Honor Society carrying a 3.71 weighted GPA. In her recommendation letter to the scholarship board, Mrs Cawfield praised him as being much more than an accomplished athlete. She described him as an optimistic, inclusive and true leader, who leads with kindness and compassion, lifting those around him.

Athletics

Athletically he is a well decorated accomplished three sport athlete. He is the type of athlete that has set records, received numerous accolades and multiple college offers. I could go on and on about what he has accomplished, but after reading his application and speaking to a

few people, I have a strong sense that he is a humble, grounded young man who is about being a mentor, being a good role model and using the lessons learned as a student athlete to help himself and those around him. He writes in his essay to the scholarship board, "As a team captain and playing so often, I found myself in mentorship roles, guiding younger teammates through the challenges of high school sports, just as how I was guided when I was an underclassman. This responsibility created a sense of accountability within me and the ability to motivate and inspire others". He goes on to explain what his student athlete experience has taught him. He said that his grandpa always reminded him that you win a lot and you lose more and a student-athlete has to learn to handle both with grace. He also wrote "the attention and popularity that have come with being a student-athlete in high school has taught me very important lessons about humility and character". "It allowed me to influence others positively and act as a role model within the school community".

Community

Our male recipient has been very active in community service. Within the RV community he has helped with the Mustang Stampede, homecoming, Make-A-Wish and Trick-or-Treat Street events. In the surrounding community he has volunteered his time and talents to the Denver Rescue Mission and has served as a youth flag football coach for the NFL Colorado Division.

For academic achievement, for being a tremendous athlete, for being an outstanding mentor and role model, and for being active in the community, I am proud to introduce Logan Madden as the male recipient of the Lisa Nelson Memorial Scholarship.