

Edward J. Pillings Endowment



ABOUT THE ENDOWMENT: The Edward J. Pillings Endowment was established by Laurie Pillings Rinker and Carol A. Pillings to honor their father Ed who, thanks to the kindness and assistance of a few key people, was able to rise to a position where he could give back. Laurie and Carol have continued this legacy of giving with the Edward J. Pillings Endowment which provides a research grant of \$1,000 to a master's level student. When the balance of this fund reaches \$50,000 an endowed scholarship will be created that will provide an annual award of \$2,300 to a qualified athletic training student.

ABOUT MR. PILLINGS: Edward J. Pillings, AT Retired, truly loved the athletes and athletic trainers he mentored. Many of them made the pilgrimage to West Point for his funeral and memorial service. It was Mr. Pillings's desire to create an endowment so that he could give back to the young people he enjoyed. Wilbur Bohm introduced Mr. Pillings to the athletic training profession, and Pinky Newell, another NATA Hall of Fame member, inspired his interest in athletic

training. Mr. Pillings finished two undergraduate degrees at Washington State University (B.S.'s in Physical Education and Education). He went on to earn a master's degree in Education from Columbia University. His first job was head athletic trainer at Eastern Washington College, where he also taught kinesiology, anatomy and other courses. He then spent four years as head athletic trainer and instructor at the University of New Mexico. At the urging of legendary Army football coach Earl Blaik, Mr. Pillings joined the staff at the U.S. Military Academy in 1957. He served as the head athletic trainer at Army for 24 years, where he dedicated himself to the cadets and student athletes both on a personal and professional level. Mr. Pillings also served as an athletic trainer for the Pan-American Games and the 1980 Winter Olympics. Mr. Pillings loved the West Point experience, he mentored and counseled many young men and had over sixty military intern athletic trainers come through this program. Many of these men have gone on to become athletic training leaders. Mr. Pillings was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1980.

Recipients:

- 2023 Natasha Wells, University of South Florida
- 2022 Kierstin Niemeyer, Nebraska Wesleyan University
- 2021 Said Mendez, Nebraska Wesleyan University
- 2020 Kim Barber Foss, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions
- 2016-2019 Not awarded
- 2015 Alyssa Stirling, Appalachian State University
- 2014 Robert Kunisch, University of Toledo
- 2013 Eric Hunter & Caitlyn Crowley, Weber State University
- 2012 Laura Young, University of Toledo

Status: Fully Funded as
Scholarship Endowment 2020
Research Grant prior to 2020

Individual Donors:

Katherine & Jeffrey Alitz
Robert Arciero
Stephen E. Bair
John Baxter
Scott Beaty
Roberta & John Butler
Richard G. Cardillo
Steve Condon
Check & Mary D. Amico
Gale Daugherty
Alzia & Michael Dean
Leonard Deranleau
Phillip Donley
Sally, Jeff, Sue & Carl Evans

Kent Falb
John Feagin
Larry & Carol Gardner
Joe Gieck
Sandy & Jodie Glore
Lee Grasfeder
Jack Hecker
Peggy & Michael Hegewald
Maurice & Elizabeth Hilliard
Marilyn & William Hyncik
Mary & John Johnson
Tim Kelly
Carl Krein
Mike Kryzewski

Dale Mildenberger
Richard Milder
John Montanaro
Beverly & Robert Portante
Bene & Don Prentice
Christine & Matthew Reese
Laurie Pillings Rinker
John Simar
John Streif
Robert Vanderbush
Tom Wheelock
Timothy Young
Bernie Ziegler

Donor Organizations:

NATA District 2
New York State Athletic Trainers' Association