



THE WATCHDOG

SPRING EDITION | 2021 | VOLUME 1

2021 CALENDAR

Homecoming

Friday, September 17

5-7pm Watchdog Education Foundation
Free Will Donation Tailgate Event
Community Pork Loin BBQ
Stadium Picnic Shelter
7pm vs. Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies

Hall of Fame Banquet Dinner

Saturday, September 18

6pm | 7pm Induction Ceremony
Bridges at Beresford

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nathan Jensen Chairperson
Gerald Dahlin Vice Chairperson
Brian Field Secretary
Sue Christensen Treasurer
Sally Dolan Director
Chris Savey Director
Josh Limmer Director

STAY IN TOUCH

WatchdogFoundation.org



@watchdogfdn
605-763-4293



Beresford Establishes Alumni Group

Nearly a year ago, the Watchdog Education Foundation began a process to establish an alumni group for Beresford. Through discussion and planning sessions with members of the **Beresford Area Arts, Beresford Area Foundation, Beresford Athletic Booster Club, and Watchdog Education Foundation**, ideas blossomed into a clear path forward. By creating an alumni group, the Watchdog Education Foundation hopes to harness the power of alumni, provide moments that make an impact for students and citizens, and create a culture of giving in the community.

Through fundraising efforts, we hope to provide additional scholarship opportunities for Beresford students. And, through marketing and promotional efforts, we hope to build a virtual following on our social media platforms and raise awareness at various Beresford activities.

If you would like to help move this project forward by donating to our effort, please send your donation to Watchdog Education Foundation at 301 W. Maple St. Beresford, SD 57004.

Watchdog

Education Foundation



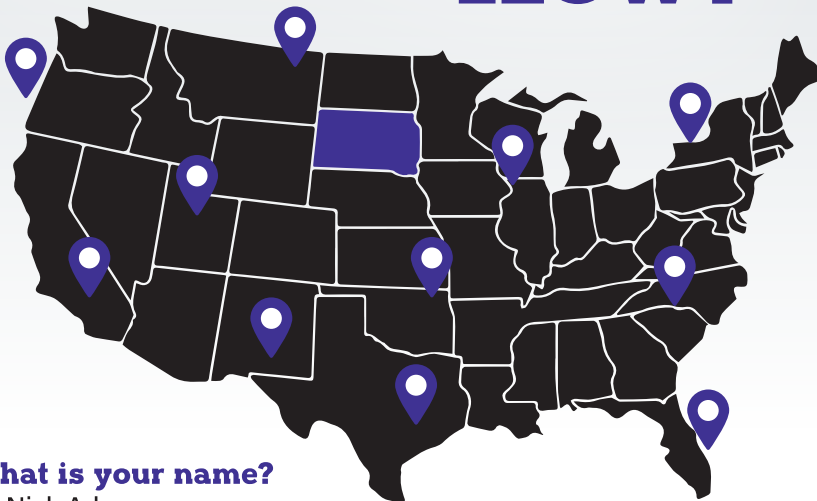
Apply for Innovation Education Grant

The Watchdog Education Foundation encourages Beresford School District employees to apply for the Innovation Education Grant. Innovation Grants are awarded for innovative and creative educational projects, that enhance educational opportunities for students in the Beresford School District. Innovative Education Grants can include:

- a new or innovative technology tool that incorporates 21st century learning skills for students, a school, or classroom;
- a one-time event or experience that offers students a unique experience that would not otherwise be available; or
- an immediate impact grant that boosts a program or activity to another level.

A grant committee, comprised of community and Foundation board members, will review grant applications. Grant applications should describe the project clearly and specifically. For more information on the grant requirements and criteria, please view the "Innovation Education Grant Criteria" online at www.beresford.k12.sd.us --> dropdown menu "community" --> Watchdog Education Foundation --> Watchdog Innovation Education Grant Application.

Where are they **Now?**



What is your name?

Nick Adams

Where do you reside?

Beresford, SD

What year did you graduate?

2015

What would you like to share about your personal life?

I have a beautiful fiancée, Katy, and a cat named Lola.

What was your favorite school lunch?

Chicken nuggets

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities in high school? If so, what and how have they affected your life?

I participated in football, basketball, wrestling, and track throughout my high school years.

I learned to be a team player and work hard to achieve my goals.

Who was your most influential teacher?

My most influential teacher was Mr. Carda. He always treated us like adults and let us know that we could achieve anything we set our minds to.

How did high school impact your career path?

High school made me realize I was a hands-on learner that was willing to work hard.

What is your profession?

I work for an underground utility contractor located in Sioux Falls. I am also a volunteer firefighter in Beresford.

What is one thing you learned in high school that you still use today?

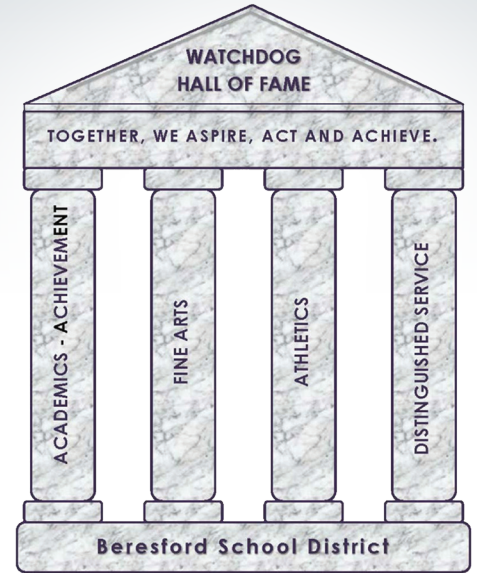
I have always been an outgoing person, and Beresford gave me many opportunities to do what I love and become the person I am today. I am not afraid to take risks and try new things.

What do you appreciate about Beresford now that you didn't as a teenager?

Beresford is a small town where everybody is friendly and cares about one another. As a teenager, you don't realize how big your support system truly is. This goes beyond athletics. Everybody is cheering you on to succeed in whatever you choose to do in life.



Watchdog Hall of Fame



In 2017, the Beresford School District introduced its Watchdog Hall of Fame. The annual awards ceremony recognizes individuals for their accomplishments and outstanding character. Awardees fall into one of four categories: Academics /Achievement, Fine Arts, Athletics, or Distinguished Service. Honored individuals have either exhibited dedication to the Beresford School District and/or their accomplishments have positively affected the educational quality and stature of the Beresford Schools.

Over the last couple of years, the Watchdog Hall of Fame has become a beloved and memorable occasion for many community members. Perhaps one person who remains top of mind when people think of the early inductees is First Lieutenant Josef L. Thorne.

First Lieutenant Josef L. Thorne was a 1958 graduate. He attended Beresford High School during his junior and senior years and was active in sports and the arts. Josef excelled in football, basketball, and track and field, while also playing trombone in the high school band.

During his junior season, Josef helped lead his football team and basketball team to Big 8 Conference titles. Then, during his senior year, Josef helped lead his basketball team to the Class "A" Section VI Championship with a win over the Yankton Bucks, which advanced Beresford to the State "A" Tourney.

Based on his high school accomplishments, Josef earned a scholarship to play football at SDSU. There, while majoring in civil engineering, he became one of the all-time great football stars in South Dakota's history. Not only was he a standout football player, he became an important campus leader at SDSU.

As a junior, Josef broke the record for most carries in a single season with

166, 18 more than the old mark. He also led the North Central Conference (NCC) in rushing as a junior. The 1961 SDSU football press guide said, "He can punch the opponents' line full of holes with his hard running." During his senior season in 1961, he had 958 yards rushing. As a senior, he was co-captain of an SDSU team which went 8-2 for the year and tied for the North Central Conference title.

Josef earned All-American honors as a senior and was picked to the All-North Central Conference team in 1960 and 1961. He also earned the North Central Conference Most Valuable Player award as a senior.

Josef graduated from SDSU with a degree in civil engineering in 1963. The Green Bay Packers drafted him to play professional football and he attended a summer rookie camp in 1963.

When Josef didn't show up for another camp, Coach Vince Lombardi called his home. His dad, Melvin, told Coach Lombardi that Josef had joined the Army ROTC at SDSU and he felt obligated to serve his country in the military. Lombardi said he understood and invited Josef to call him after his military service was complete.

Josef Thorne had an army commission as a second lieutenant and was part of the Army Reserves Officers Training Corps. On September 18, 1963, he was assigned to active duty with the U.S. Army. Lieutenant Thorne was sent overseas to Vietnam in November, 1964 for a one-year tour of duty. He served with the 145th Aviator Airlift Platoon. Lt. Thorne was originally assigned to fly mail but instead volunteered for combat missions to fly assault helicopters in Vietnam.

Lt. Thorne was given an assignment to fly a combat mission in the region

near Qui Nhon, Vietnam. He was flying a Huey helicopter when the enemy began to fire on him and another plane from the ground. Both were shot down on Sunday, April 19, 1965. Nine men were killed in all, Lt. Josef Thorne among them. He was just 24 years old and the first South Dakotan to die in the Vietnam War, 41 days after the first combat forces arrived in Vietnam.

1st Lt. Josef L. Thorne's memorial service was held on the SDSU campus in Doner Auditorium, where more than 800 students, faculty, staff, family, and friends attended to honor him. He was buried with military honors at Greenwood Cemetery in Brookings. 1st Lt. Josef L. Thorne's name has the 21st place on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Following Josef's memorial service, Senator George McGovern stated for the Congressional Record, "He was a hero to thousands of South Dakota schoolboys. His death brings the war in Vietnam closer to the heart of every South Dakota citizen."

Josef Thorne is remembered as an American hero, not only for our school and community of Beresford but for our state and our nation.

The next Watchdog Hall of Fame ceremony will take place during Homecoming weekend on Saturday, September 18. More information is available online at www.beresford.k12.sd.us --> [Menu](#) --> [Watchdog Hall of Fame](#)

Watchdog



Education Foundation
301 W Maple Street
Beresford, SD 57004

WatchdogFoundation.org

  @watchdogfdn

Seniors May Now Apply for the **Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship**



The Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship is now available for Beresford High School seniors. David and Susan Christensen established an annual special scholarship fund in honor of their daughter, Shanna Rae. Along with the Christensen family, the Shanna Rae Memorial Scholarship is supported by the Tri County Tour and Duathlon event, as well as sponsors and donors.

The Shanna Rae Christensen Scholarship is available to seniors who are pursuing higher education in the fields of special education, rehabilitation, or nursing. Seniors must:

- submit two letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to their character and activity involvement;
- maintain a 3.0+ GPA;
- demonstrate good, moral character, and be involved in community, church, and/or school activities.

Volunteer and/or work experience with special needs children is preferred, but not required. The Watchdog Education Foundation Board will select the 2021-22 recipients this May.

Applications are due to Mrs. Shellie Pratt, Guidance Counselor, by April 1, 2021. For an application or questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Mrs. Pratt.



Apply Online Today:

www.beresford.k12.sd.us --> dropdown menu "community" -->
Watchdog education foundation --> Shanna Rae Scholarship Application