

Named Endowed Funds

The Edward Chinnock Family Fund



Edward Chinnock was born in Boyd, Wisconsin and taught industrial education in Iowa and Minnesota before teaching airplane mechanics in Illinois and Nebraska during World War II. In 1945, Chinnock accepted a position in Cloquet as an industrial education teacher and in 1948 he established a vocational training program for the district, which provided a curriculum where students attended regular classes in the morning before reporting to part-time jobs that were coordinated by Mr. Chinnock with local businesses in the afternoon. In addition to earning credits toward graduation and an hourly wage, students in the vocational training program received training and experience from skilled workers in office and industrial environments. Mr. Chinnock continued working on this program until his retirement in 1977; he passed away in October 2005.

“I know my father would be very pleased with the establishment of this endowed fund,” said his daughter, Karen Chinnock Rudd. “My husband and I are retired teachers and have seen the benefits of educational foundations in our respective school districts. My dad was always very committed to education and his focus was on what was best for students. He worked tirelessly do a better job of reaching students. He was focused on vocational education at a time when it was not in vogue. As a result there are many adults who feel Dad had an impact on their lives.”

Chinnock also served as the president of the Head of the Lakes Industrial Education Association and as president of the Minnesota Vocational Coordinators Association. He was also active in the Cloquet Rotary Club, the Cloquet Golden Kiwanis, the Cloquet Civic Center Board and the Carlton County Cancer Society.

One of the many students who benefited from Edward Chinnock’s dedication was Dorothy Lisignoli, a member of the first vocational training class in 1948. Lisignoli worked as a secretary at Wood Conversion throughout her senior year and feels that her experience in the program led to a successful career.

“After graduating from high school I did a lot of secretarial work,” she said “In 1965 I took a job with the Cloquet School District and I worked there for 27 ½ years. By the time I retired in 1992 I was the executive secretary to the superintendent and the school Board. Mr. Chinnock was a wonderful teacher and a wonderful person.”

Steve Mangan, a 1964 graduate of Cloquet, credits Chinnock with helping him find his career path. “I initially had doubts about taking the vocational training program,” said Mangan. “But I

eventually joined because I liked and respected Mr. Chinnock. I had an interest in math and science and was thinking about becoming a mechanical engineer; Mr. Chinnock coordinated a position for me with Conwed in their engineering department.”

Mangan also said his experience in the program helped him to better understand himself and what he wanted as a career. “Ironically, it turned out that mechanical engineering was something I did not want to do and I instead decided to pursue a degree in business administration when I went to college. I continued working in the Conwed engineering department through my college years and I later obtained a managerial position with the company and spent 21 years there. I often look back and think about how valuable that experience was and how it changed my life.”

“Dad was very proud of his accomplishments and contributions to education in Cloquet,” said Robert Chinnock. “This was especially true of the students whom he helped guide into satisfying life-long careers. He enjoyed hearing from former students and frequently shared the positive memories he had of working in Cloquet. By establishing the Edward Chinnock Family Fund, we hope to honor my father’s memory through the work of the Cloquet Educational Foundation.”