

### The Forrest and Helen Whitson Scholarship Fund

Forrest Whitson was born and raised in the Starke County area. The Whitson family came to Starke County more than 100 years ago when Forrest's grandfather purchased a large amount of property in the Washington Township area. He began attending school when he was eight years old and later graduated from Knox High School as the salutatorian. Upon graduation, he attended a business school in South Bend, IN and attained his degree in business management. A few years later, Forrest took over his father's loan business at Farmer's State Bank and worked as the head cashier.

Helen Whitson was born in Kewana, Indiana but later moved to the Starke County area. She began attending the Knox School Corporation when she was twelve years old. Helen was a firm believer in the empowerment of education. She was involved in several clubs and organizations throughout the community such as P.E.O., the Thimble club, and school fundraisers.



Forrest met his wife, Helen, at Knox High School, being that she was one of the other seven students in his graduating class. They later reencountered one another while attending school in South Bend and shortly after this, began dating. After five years of engagement, they were married in Biloxi, Mississippi. They then returned to Starke County where Forrest remained a proud business owner and resident of Starke County for the rest of his life. Forrest and Helen had one son named John. He was born in South Bend, Indiana on November 18, 1918.

The Forrest and Helen Whitson Scholarship fund was created by John Whitson, the son of Forrest and Helen. He created this scholarship in order to honor his parents and the hard work that they had put forth in order to allow him to achieve a higher education. John hopes that through this scholarship he can help provide more opportunities for other students to attend college as well. John maintained his family roots for many years, living in Knox, IN and running the Long-Thompson Lumber Yard. John later met Rae (Hundt) Whitson whom he married and together they later had a daughter named Helen.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

Applicants must be qualified sophomore or higher students attending Purdue University in the School of Engineering, Agriculture or Consumer and Family Living (Family Sciences) who have



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graduated from a Starke County High School, and who are deserving of financial assistance. Students have attended high school in Indiana for at least four years and must have graduated in at least the highest twenty percent (20%) of their high school graduating class. Good character, citizenship and a healthy life style are important criteria.