

Nick Kroska Scholarship

History: This scholarship is being developed in recognition of Nicholas Kroska's 16 years of service to Lourdes High School as an English teacher and coach of football, wrestling, and track. The LHS scholarship will support students who need financial assistance and who follow Nick's model of strong engagement with both academic and extracurricular activities.

Nick Kroska was born in 1950 in Faribault, Minnesota, to Lucian (Dick) and Angela (Angie) Kroska. He and his sisters Luanne (class of '65), Shelly (class of '75), and Amy (class of '85) attended St. Francis and St. Pius Grade Schools and Lourdes High School in Rochester. His foster sister, Sue, attended Mayo High School, graduating in 1964. As a student at Lourdes, Nick participated in a broad range of extracurriculars, including football, band, and school plays. Nick's success in these diverse domains—academics, athletics, music, and drama—was recognized upon graduation, in 1968, when he received the Student of the Year Award.

Nick attended Saint John's University, graduating in 1972. At SJU Nick again participated in a wide range of programs: he played football, performed in the stage band, and developed his progressive political philosophy. At the end of his senior football season, he was named the first winner of the Tim Casey Award, an award that recognizes the pillars of Saint John's student athletes: those who play hard on the field and achieve success in the classroom.

After graduation, Nick's engagement in a broad set of activities continued. Between 1972 and 1988, Nick worked at Lourdes as an English teacher and as a football, wrestling, and track coach. In 1988, he also authored a book about the development of Rochester's water, electrical, and steam utilities. As a result of his research, the Lake Zumbro Hydroelectric Dam was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1988, Nick and his former wife, Pam Kroska, and two sons, Aaron and Brett, moved to Holbrook, Arizona, where Nick taught AP English, managed the yearbook staff, and coached football and track. In 1989-1991, Nick taught AP English at Pierce High School in Arbuckle California and again coached football and track and oversaw the school newspaper.

In 1991, Nick began working as a technical and marketing writer and editor for a natural resources consulting company based in Sacramento. The family then returned to the Midwest in 1998, and he began work for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, working on the County Geologic Atlas program and information brochures about water resources.

Nick always liked people to know that he never had a bad job! He embraced a philosophy of lifelong learning—with every job and every writing assignment he felt the possibility for growing and extending his knowledge base. He loved learning about everything—from natural resources to sports to politics—and reveled in his experiences working with smart people. Nick's multifaceted commitment to learning focused on academics, athletics, and the arts. He and his family hope to foster that tradition through this scholarship.